

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 INFORMATION



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COVID-19: Scams (Safeguard Yourself)

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). There are ways you can avoid scams and protect your money and personal information, recommended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).



Coronavirus Scams Online

Scammers look for ways to pry on the fears of individuals, especially when there is an emergency, and people are seeking assistance, guidance, and resources to deal with the emergency situation. It is important that the general community understand that these times in crisis, is also when scammers are setting up their websites to sell bogus products, and using fake emails, texts, and social media posts as a ruse to take consumer money and get access to personal information. Scammers are forging emails mentioning the outbreak (COVID-19) to make it appear to be from business partners, or public institutions to try to get users to open the messages, unleashing harmful malware.

How do I know if a Coronavirus email is a scam?

It is important to follow normal online tips to protect your accounts, finances and identity. More importantly, do not click on links or respond to an e-mail that you do not recognize. The emails and posts may be promoting awareness and prevention tips or fake information about cases in your neighborhood. They also may be asking you to donate to victims, offering advice on unproven treatments, or contain malicious email attachments.

Scams About Coronavirus Vaccines And Cures

There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19, and no specific treatment to prevent or treat a Coronavirus infection. Scientists are working on these issues currently and only started to begin testing. However, scammers are taking advantage of fear and misinformation to take people's finances and making false promises. For information, please check with

the California Department of Public Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, or World Health Organization for details.

Can I pay to be on a list to be the first to receive a vaccine?

No. Do not give money to anyone that claims a payment will put you on a list to fast-track receiving a vaccination. There are no lists being generated for people to receive vaccinations. When a vaccine does become available, your medical provider will notify you.

Should I buy a product that claims to cure Coronavirus?

Be wary of anyone touting any type of medical miracle or holistic cures. Using questionable and untested products will cost you money and potentially be dangerous to your health. Think twice before spending money on a product that claims to cure a wide range of diseases.

Be suspect of products that provide only patient testimonials as evidence of their effectiveness. Patient testimonials can be made up and embellished, and they are no substitute for true scientific evidence. Before using any product that makes these claims, consult with your doctor or health care professional to ensure it is safe to use.

How can I buy a kit to test myself at home for Coronavirus?

Home testing kits for some common medical issues are available at many retailers. However, there are no home test kits for Coronavirus to-date. Be wary of the unapproved or fraudulent test kits being marketed on the Internet, in magazines, and elsewhere. Patients who suspect they may have the virus or that they may be infected should consult with a physician on the best way to provide a specimen for testing.

Should I invest in a company that's working on a Coronavirus vaccine or cure?

Be alert to "investment opportunities" or offers to crowd fund for a cure. If you see one of these promotions, ignore it. The [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#) (SEC) is warning people about online promotions, including on social media, claiming that the products or services of publicly-traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure Coronavirus. The promotions claim that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result. Keep in mind that contributing to a crowd fund will not guarantee any results and contributions to a crowd fund may not be refundable.

Charity Scams

Charities help communities in their time of need and representatives may ask for donations from people to help fund their activities. However, scammers may try to take advantage of the kindness of others for their own benefit.

How do I know my donation is going to a real charity?

In California, all legitimate charities and professional fundraisers must be registered with the California State Attorney General, Charitable Trusts Section. This office regulates charitable organizations to ensure donations contributed by Californians are not stolen or misused through fraud. To ensure the charity you are donating to is legitimate, use the Attorney General's Registry Verification Search [here](#). This tool allows you to search the files of the Registry of Charitable Trusts.

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Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through [charities](#) or [crowd funding](#) sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Do not pay donations with gift cards or by wiring money.

More Info On Scams

Stay up to date on the latest scams and precautions you and your family should take. Sign up for Consumer and Business Affairs' [consumer alerts](#). If you come across any suspicious claims, report them to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

As the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic evolves, the City of Menifee will continue to provide updates. Information regarding the coronavirus is changing frequently. For accurate and up to date information about COVID-19, please visit www.cityofmenifee.us/coronavirus, and [sign up for notifications](#) for alerts and news.

ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 95,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*