

Stay Alert for COVID Scams

COVID scams have cost US households more than \$600 million since 2020*. Do you know how to spot them?

COVID scammers may contact you by phone, email, or social media to trick you out of money or personal information. Look out for:

- False offers for rapid testing kits, designed to steal information.
- Offers for fake vaccination cards or queue-jumping for booster shot.
- Phone calls where the scammer poses as a family member with a health emergency.



Scammers typically target older adults. To avoid becoming a victim, follow these rules.

- Avoid online offers for faster access to vaccines. You don't have to pay to sign up for a COVID shot or booster.
- Be wary of emails, calls and social media posts advertising "free" or government-ordered COVID-19 tests.
- Don't share photos of your vaccination card online. Scammers can see your name, date of birth, and other information.
- Never share or enter your Social Security, Medicare, or credit card details in response to an unsolicited call, text, or email.
- Don't click links or download files from unexpected emails, even if the email address looks like someone you recognize.
- Don't engage in conversation with someone you suspect to be a scammer. The longer you talk, the more information they can find out.
- If you think you've been scammed, alert your local police department immediately.

*Source: Federal Trade Commission