

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus.

They're setting up websites to sell bogus products, and using fake emails, texts, and social media posts as a ruse to take your money and get your personal information.

The emails and posts may be promoting awareness and prevention tips, and 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.

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- ✓ **Don't click on links from sources you don't know.** It could download a virus onto your computer or device. Make sure your anti-malware/anti-virus software is up to date.
- ✓ **Be aware of emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other experts saying that have information about the virus.** For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov or call 800-232-4636; or visit the World Health Organization (WHO) website at www.who.int.
- ✓ **Ignore online offers for vaccinations.** If you see ads touting prevention, treatment, or cure claims for the Coronavirus, ask yourself: if there's been a medical breakthrough, would you be hearing about it for the first time through an ad or sales pitch?
- ✓ **Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites.** Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.
- ✓ **Be alert to "investment opportunities."** 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 and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result.
- ✓ **In addition to online scams, be aware of in-person scams.** The Red Cross is **not** sending people to homes for testing. Don't answer the door unless you know the person or it's your Meals on Wheels delivery person (who will have ID and will not ask for payment.)

*The **SafeSeniors** community partners work together to identify, advocate, and seek justice for older adult victims of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation in Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa Counties.*

*The **Muskegon County SafeSeniors Task Force** conducts criminal investigations involving victims over the age of 60 with an emphasis on financial exploitation and physical abuse and neglect cases.*

If you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, call Adult Protective Services at (855) 444-3911 at any time.