

Prince William County Police

Community Awareness



3/18/20

Coronavirus Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus. The scams take a variety of forms, such as 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:

- **Don't click on links from sources you don't know.** It could download a virus onto your computer or device. Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.
- **Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that have information about the virus.** For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **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.** 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.



If you come across any suspicious claims, report them to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

Information provided by FTC

REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE

Emergency: 911 - Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500