

TIPS TO AVOID CORONAVIRUS SCAMS



If you have a consumer problem or question, contact the Northwestern District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit:

Greenfield (413) 774-3186
Northampton (413) 586-9225



- **Hang up on robocalls.** Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls.
- **Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits.** Scammers are trying to get you to buy products that aren't proven to treat or prevent the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the Coronavirus.
- **Fact-check information.** Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources.
- **Know who you're buying from.** Online sellers may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household, and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.
- **Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the government.** Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer.
- **Don't click on links from sources you don't know.** They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- **Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus.** Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites.** If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

Working in cooperation with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office