



## BEWARE OF POTENTIAL COVID-19 FRAUD-RELATED SCAMS

With the Corona Virus in effect, scammers are taking advantage of the fear that many Americans are experiencing right now. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), since January 1, 2020, Americans have lost over \$13.4 million dollars due to Corona Virus fraud-related scams. Though many consumers may have not identified or reported such fraud, these numbers could be significantly higher.

### **HERE ARE THE MOST COMMON CORONA VIRUS SCAMS:**

1. Do not respond to calls, texts or emails about money from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
  - The Government will always send you a letter if they need to get in contact with you.
2. Do not answer any phone calls that you do not recognize.
  - If it is an important call, they will leave you a voice message.
3. Do not respond or purchase online vaccinations or home test kits for the Corona Virus.
  - There are currently no proven vaccinations that may cure the Corona Virus.
4. Research before you make a donation.
  - It is always important that you research on where you send your money and never send your donation in the form of cash or through a wire transfer.

**IF YOU NEED TO REPORT A SCAM, PLEASE CONTACT THE FTC AT [ftc.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT UPDATES OF COVID-19 IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, VISIT <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>**

**IF YOU FEEL YOU MAY BE AT RISK OF IDENTITY THEFT, YOU MAY APPLY FOR A FREE FRAUD ALERT BY CALLING ONE OF THE THREE MAJOR CREDIT BUREAUS.**

### **EQUIFAX**



1-800-685-1111



[equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](https://equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services)

### **EXPERIAN**



1-888-EXPERIAN (888-397-3742)



[experian.com/help](https://experian.com/help)

### **TRANSUNION**



1-888-909-8872



[transunion.com/credit-help](https://transunion.com/credit-help)