



CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION



Law enforcement officials are seeing increased efforts by scammers looking to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic to prey on U.S. consumers. The Lakewood Police Department would like to raise awareness by informing the community of the increase in scams that have circulated since the virus spread in the U.S.

- ♦ **Be wary of any business, charity, or individual requesting payments in cash, by wire transfer, gift card or through email.**
- ♦ **Never share your personal or financial information over email, text message, or over the phone.**
- ♦ **Know that government agencies will never call you to ask for money.**
- ♦ **Ignore phone calls or emails from strangers urging you to invest in a hot, new coronavirus stock, or inquiring about having Medicare or Medicaid to obtain a free COVID-19 test kit.**
- ♦ **Know who you are buying from. Online sellers may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning products, and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.**

These sites can help you spot email scams and other coronavirus-related scams:

The Federal Trade Commission COVID-19 scam-tracking site, ftc.gov/coronavirus

The Homeland Security [tips for handling email attachments](#)

Homeland Security [tips for avoiding social engineering and phishing attacks.](#)

Report scams:

Report suspicious texts by forwarding them to SPAM (7726).

Report suspicious emails to <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

Report suspicious social media posts to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov.

If you have questions about a scam, please contact Scam Squad at 216-443-SCAM (7226).