

Spring '21 COVID Scams



Rule #1 for avoiding scams: Remember, COVID vaccines are always free.

Scammers are trying to sell doses through the mail and appointments online they promise will get you vaccinated faster. Don't fall for it.

Ignore offers for COVID antibody tests.

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Don't participate in COVID surveys on Facebook, by email or text.

The surveys may offer a prize. But you'll be required to provide personal, financial, or medical information that can then be used to steal your identity.

Avoid posting an image of your vaccine card on social media.

Scammers can use information from the image to create a duplicate card with your personal information that's sold on the dark web.

Don't fall for a scammer who promises to send you a completed vaccine card.

Prices for these fake documents are as high as \$250. Some airlines are now blacklisting passengers whose vaccine cards are fake.

Remember, Medicare and Social Security will never call a beneficiary regarding COVID.

Scammers may call to confirm personal information, or offer services, products and extra benefits that don't exist. Hang up.

Some fraudsters go very low: targeting those who have lost a family member

FEMA is helping some families pay funeral expenses. Scammers are contacting survivors, with instructions on signing up — for a fee.

Unemployment claims are only processed through the official state website.

Fraudsters are promoting websites that look like a genuine state unemployment site, but instead, collects personal information and often requires an application fee.

Take a pass on offers to invest in vaccine companies via phone or email.

Fraudsters are trying to sell shares in companies that are supposedly on the cutting edge of virus research.

Be skeptical about what you read regarding COVID on social media.

Roughly half of all topical content on Twitter is posted by bots, not individuals.