



# Coronavirus Scams

---

Tips from the FTC

---

[ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://ftc.gov/coronavirus)

Source: Federal Trade Commission | FTC.gov

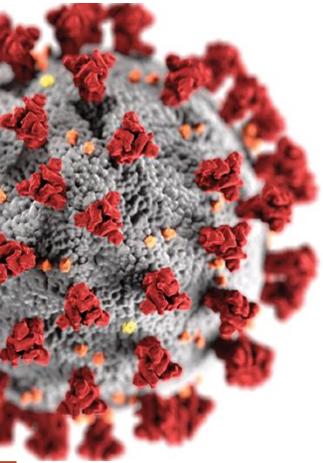
# Welcome

- ▶ Carol Kando-Pineda
- ▶ Federal Trade Commission
- ▶ [ftc.gov/libraries](https://www.ftc.gov/libraries)
- ▶ ckando@ftc.gov

# Scammers follow the headlines

- ▶ As headlines change, so will the scams
- ▶ Help the FTC and law enforcement partners know what you're seeing
  - ▶ Report scams to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

# Treatments & cures



*Coronavirus cure?*

**Not so fast.**

Learn the facts at  
[ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://ftc.gov/coronavirus)

Source: Federal Trade Commission | FTC.gov

- ▶ Vaccine offers
- ▶ Test kit offers
- ▶ Miracle cures
- ▶ Medicare-related scams

# What FTC is doing: law enforcement

- ▶ The FTC & FDA sent warning letters to makers of teas, essential oils, and colloidal silver
  - ▶ Said their products would help prevent coronavirus
  - ▶ BUT: No evidence to back up claims

# What FTC is doing: law enforcement

- ▶ Companies included
  - ▶ Vital Silver
  - ▶ Aromatherapy Ltd
  - ▶ N-ergetics
  - ▶ GuruNanda, LLC
  - ▶ Vivify Holistic Clinic
  - ▶ Herbal Amy, LLC
  - ▶ The Jim Bakker Show

# Email/text scams & malicious websites

- ▶ Phishing emails & texts
  - ▶ Get your money
  - ▶ Get your information
  - ▶ Links to malware sites

Re:SAFTY CORONA VIRUS AWARENESS WHO

 World Health Organization · ↶ ↷ → ...

 World Health Organization

Dear Sir,

Go through the attached document on safety measures regarding the spreading of corona virus.

Click on the button below to download

[Safety measures](#)

Symptoms common symptoms include fever,coughcshortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Regards,

Dr. Stella Chungong  
Specialist wuhan-virus-advisory

**FAKE**

# Email/text scams & malicious websites

- ▶ Malicious websites
  - ▶ Lots of domains including “Coronavirus”
  - ▶ Stick with known, trusted sites
- ▶ Don’t click links from sources you don’t know

# Robocalls

- ▶ Health-related calls
  - ▶ Cures! Prevention! Test kits! Telemedicine! Health insurance!
- ▶ Cleaning supplies
- ▶ Social Security Administration scams
- ▶ Mortgage relief scams
- ▶ Student loan debt relief scams
- ▶ More every day
- ▶ Report to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

# Government stimulus checks

- ▶ The government **will not ask**
  - ▶ you to pay up front to get any money
  - ▶ for your SSN, bank account, or credit card number
- ▶ Anyone who tells you they can get you money NOW is a scammer.

# Fake charities

- ▶ Often appear with crises
- ▶ Before you give: do your homework
- ▶ If you give, never pay by cash, gift card or money transfer.
- ▶ [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity)

# Misinformation & rumors

Ask yourself these 3 questions:

- ▶ Who is this message from?
- ▶ What do they want me to do?
- ▶ What is the evidence behind this message?
- ▶ [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

# 5 things to know!

- ▶ Ignore offers of home tests
- ▶ Hang up
- ▶ Beware phishing and texts
- ▶ Donate with care

**KEEP CALM**  
and **Avoid**  
**Coronavirus Scams**

Here are **5 things** you can do to avoid a Coronavirus scam:

- **Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits.**  
Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- **Hang up on robocalls.**  
Scammers use illegal sales call to get your money and your personal information.
- **Watch out for phishing emails and text messages.**  
Don't click on links in emails or texts you didn't expect.
- **Research before you donate.**  
Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity).
- **Stay in the know.**  
Go to [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC's alerts at [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://www.ftc.gov/subscribe).

 Federal Trade Commission

If you see a scam, report it to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

# #FTCScamBingo

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/now-more-ever-spot-scams-ftcscambingo>

## FTC Scam Bingo

Want to help warn others about scams? Post on your social media (w/ #FTCScamBingo) and play with your friends. Want to let us know what's going on? **When you have bingo, share with the Federal Trade Commission on Facebook (@FederalTradeCommission) or Twitter (@FTC)!**

Got a robocall 	Got a scam call	"Lower your interest rate"	"Problem with SSN"	"COVID-19 cure!" 
"Treat COVID-19"	"Get COVID-19 test kit"	"Utilities problem"	Blocked a caller	Reported a scam
Fill in your own <input type="text"/>	"Lower your debt"	FREE  SPACE	"Refi your mortgage"	"Forgive student loans"
Call from your own # 	Call from similar #	COVID-19 phishing scam	"Get free gov't money" 	"Get health insurance"
Call from "tech support"	Pressure to act NOW 	Call from "Scam Likely"	Hung up on robocall	Fill in your own <input type="text"/>

Learn more about spotting and reporting scams at [consumer.ftc.gov](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov). Sign up for Consumer Alerts at [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://www.ftc.gov/subscribe).



# Stay informed

- ▶ Get the FTC's Consumer Alerts: [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://www.ftc.gov/subscribe)
- ▶ Report scams or questionable claims: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)
- ▶ Know the latest on the Coronavirus
  - ▶ Health info: [www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov)
  - ▶ COVID-19 Scams: [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus)
  - ▶ Federal gov't response: [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

# Questions?

- ▶ Thank you!
- ▶ Carol Kando-Pineda
- ▶ [ftc.gov/libraries](https://www.ftc.gov/libraries)
- ▶ [ckando@ftc.gov](mailto:ckando@ftc.gov)