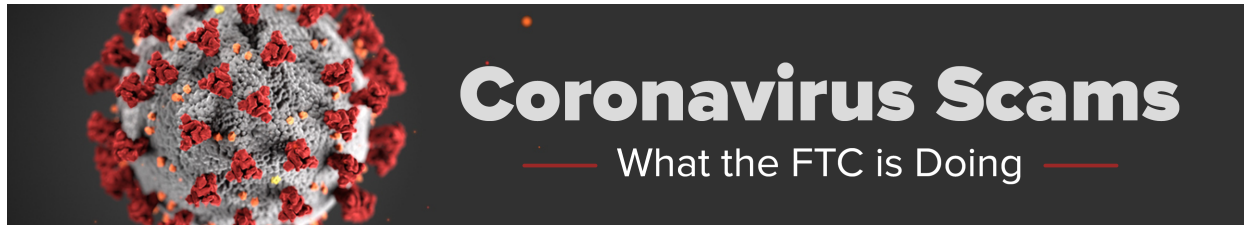




FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Consumer Information

consumer.ftc.gov



Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus.

Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using [illegal robocalls](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0259-robocalls#legal) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0259-robocalls#legal>) 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, instead.
- 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. Visit [What the U.S. Government is Doing](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus) (<https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>) for links to federal, state and local government agencies.
- Know who you're buying from. [Online sellers](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0020-shopping-online) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0020-shopping-online>), 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](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/checks-government) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/checks-government>). The details are still being worked out. 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](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>). They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019) (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>) (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through [charities](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams>) or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

What the FTC is Doing

The FTC and FDA have jointly issued warning letters to seven sellers of unapproved and misbranded products, claiming they can treat or prevent the Coronavirus. The companies' products include teas, essential oils, and colloidal silver.

The FTC says the companies have no evidence to back up their claims — as required by law. The FDA says there are no approved vaccines, drugs or investigational products currently available to treat or prevent the virus. [Read more about the warning letters.](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2020/03/ftc-fda-send-warning-letters-seven-companies-about-unsupported) (<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2020/03/ftc-fda-send-warning-letters-seven-companies-about-unsupported>)

Blog Posts

- [FTC: Coronavirus scams, Part 2](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/ftc-coronavirus-scams-part-2) ([/blog/2020/03/ftc-coronavirus-scams-part-2](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/ftc-coronavirus-scams-part-2)).
- [Online security tips for working from home](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/online-security-tips-working-home) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/online-security-tips-working-home>).
- [Checks from the government](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/checks-government) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/checks-government>).
- [FTC & FDA: Warnings sent to sellers of scam Coronavirus treatments](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/ftc-fda-warnings-sent-sellers-scam-coronavirus-treatments) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/ftc-fda-warnings-sent-sellers-scam-coronavirus-treatments>).
- [Coronavirus: Scammers follow the headlines](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/02/coronavirus-scammers-follow-headlines) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/02/coronavirus-scammers-follow-headlines>).
- [FTC, FDA warn companies making Coronavirus claims](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/blogs/business-blog/2020/03/ftc-fda-warn-companies-making-coronavirus-claims) (<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/blogs/business-blog/2020/03/ftc-fda-warn-companies-making-coronavirus-claims>).

Related Articles

- [Robocalls](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0259-robocalls) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0259-robocalls>).
- [How to Block Unwanted Calls](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-block-unwanted-calls) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-block-unwanted-calls>).
- [How to Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>).
- [Miracle Health Claims](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0167-miracle-health-claims) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0167-miracle-health-claims>).
- [How to Donate Wisely and Avoid Charity Scams](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams>).

Social Media Shareables

Link to [ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus) (<http://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus>) for the FTC's most up-to-date information about Coronavirus scams.

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- Like our [FTC Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/federaltradecommis) (<https://www.facebook.com/federaltradecommis>).
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