

SCAM ALERT

Protect yourself

Public emergency situations bring out the best in people, but they also bring out the scam artists, and the coronavirus pandemic is no different.

Below is an example of a current scam in a voice mail message. Regardless of how it's presented, all scams have several things in common:

- Somehow, they're too good to be true
- They prey on vulnerable people, especially seniors
- They ruthlessly take advantage of peoples' fears
- There's usually a tiny grain of truth – just enough to be believable
- They have a sense of authority about them, often appearing to come from health, government, police or other trusted authorities
- They often copy the logos of trusted authorities and paste them on their scam documents, to make them appear legitimate

And most of all, they want your money.

Whether it's a scam to try and get your personal information, someone trying to "sell" you something, fake charities, fake investment opportunities or unexpected money where all you have to do is "click here to collect" – these are all things seem too good to be true.

Any time you get something like this, by postal mail, email, text message or any other source, protect yourself. Be suspicious. Check out links like this one <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams> and ask around to see what other people think.

It's your money – protect it.

Current scam voicemail message people are receiving regarding coronavirus tests:

"Hello, this is Nurse Jen calling to follow up on your tests from yesterday. Unfortunately, you did test positive for coronavirus. No need to panic, but call us back with your credit card handy so we can overnight you your antibiotics. It's important that you and any family or roommates stay home. Call us so we can get you your meds and give you further quarantine instructions."