


 Search

- [Browse scams](#)
- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Report fraud](#)
- [What to do if you're a victim](#)

[Home](#)

COVID-19 fraud

! Bulletin alert!

March 18, 2020: As COVID-19 continues to spread globally, watch out for associated scams. Fraudsters want to profit from consumers' fears, uncertainties and misinformation. Fraudsters are exploiting the crisis to facilitate fraud and cyber crime.

Protect yourself, beware of:

- Spoofed government, healthcare or research information
- Unsolicited calls, emails and texts requesting urgent action or payment and/or offering medical advice, financial relief, or government assistance and compensation
 - If you didn't initiate contact, you don't know who you're communicating to
 - Never respond or click on suspicious links and attachments
 - Never give out your personal or financial details
- Unauthorized or fraudulent charities requesting money for victims, products or research
 - Don't be pressured into making a donation
 - [Verify that a charity is registered](#)
- High-priced or low-quality products purchased in bulk by consumers and resold for profit
 - These items may be expired and/or dangerous to your health
- Questionable offers, such as:
 - miracle cures
 - herbal remedies
 - vaccinations
 - faster testing
- Fake and deceptive online ads, including:
 - cleaning products
 - hand sanitizers
 - other items in high demand

Reported scams

Fraudsters are posing as:

- Loan and financial service companies
 - offering loans, debt consolidation and other financial assistance services
- Cleaning or heating companies
 - offering duct cleaning services or air filters to protect from COVID-19
- Local and provincial hydro/electrical power companies
 - threatening to disconnect your power for non-payment
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization
 - offering fake lists for sale of COVID-19 infected people in your neighbourhood
- Public Health Agency of Canada
 - giving false results saying you have been tested positive for COVID-19
 - tricking you into confirming your health card and credit card numbers for a prescription
- Red Cross and other known charities
 - offering free medical products (e.g. masks) for a donation
- Government departments
 - sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails
 - tricking you into opening malicious attachments
 - tricking you to reveal sensitive personal and financial details
- Financial advisors
 - pressuring people to invest in hot new stocks related to the disease
 - offering financial aid and/or loans to help you get through the shut downs
- Door-to-door sales people
 - selling household decontamination services
- Private companies
 - offering fast COVID-19 tests for sale
 - Only health care providers can perform the tests
 - No other tests are genuine or guaranteed to provide accurate results
 - selling fraudulent products that claim to treat or prevent the disease
 - Unapproved drugs threaten public health and violate federal laws

Trusted resources and advice

- Refer to [Government of Canada COVID-19](#) health, financial and security resources
- Refer to [Financial Consumer Agency of Canada COVID-19](#) information
- Reference the latest health information from these legitimate sources:
 - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada)
 - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) (World Health Organization)
- Contact your insurance provider to answer any health insurance questions
- Make sure you have anti-virus software installed and keep your operating system up to date

Date modified: 2020-04-09

[Terms and conditions](#) | [Transparency](#)

About

[About the CAFC](#)

News

[Media contacts](#)

Contact us

[Report fraud](#)

Stay connected

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)