



STOP THE SCAMS AND COVID-19

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

is an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been accompanied by a parallel outbreak of coronavirus scams, many targeting older Americans.

Scammers are capitalizing on two things that make older adults more susceptible to abuse—fear of a health scare and isolation.

They're using scam tools such as phishing emails and texts, robocalls, and more—and closely following headlines, adapting their tactics.

So beware.

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS AND HOAXES TARGETING THE ELDERLY

Home test kits for COVID-19

Scammers call or send text messages offering “COVID-19 test kits” in attempt to collect credit card and banking information. In some cases, they may pose as officials with Medicare and Medicaid.

Bogus COVID-19 products and services

Several text and phone scams are falsely advertising products, such as fake drugs and vaccines, that claim to prevent or cure COVID-19. Some scams prey on fears of shortages and encourage seniors to “stock up” and purchase items at drastically higher prices. Other scams offer services such as in-home HVAC cleaning.

Impersonating a government agency

Scammers pose as someone from the Social Security Administration and contact seniors to tell them their benefits will be suspended or decreased due to COVID-19 unless they provide personal information or payment.

OTHER KNOWN SCAMS

Insurance scams

Several scams are offering low-cost health and life insurance, often along with at-home COVID-19 test kits and other products that are being represented as “free gifts”.

Stimulus-related scams

These scams ask consumers to provide bank information so stimulus funds can be “released” or loan applications can be approved.

Charity scams

Charity scams prey on the good nature of older adults by aiming to collect money for bogus COVID-19 relief charities. Always check on a charity by calling or looking at its actual website before donating.





TIPS TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED

- Don't respond to calls or texts from unknown numbers
- Never share your personal or financial information via email, text, or over the phone
- Be cautious if you're being pressured to share information or make a payment immediately
- Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money
- Check your phone company about call blocking services

Federal Communications Commission

Call **Stanislaus County Adult Protective Services** to speak to a social worker about elder abuse or fraud and neglect at **1-800-334-4316**

Stanislaus County
Community Services Agency
Adult Protective Services
3500 Coffee Road, Ste. 19
Modesto, CA 95355

Phone: 1-800-334-4316

Sponsored by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15th



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Services
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