



SCAM
ALERT

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the County of San Bernardino (County) and additional consumer advocate sites are issuing warnings of scam predators taking advantage of fears surrounding the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Scam predators may try and contact you in person, through email, text or in mailings through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

The Better Business Bureau (BBB), FTC, FDA and the County are offering these tips to help you stay vigilant and to avoid these types of scams:

- Do not click on links from sources you do not know! They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for individuals claiming to be from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus.
- Visit legitimate websites for information including the World Health Organization (WHO) at www.who.int, the County at www.sbcounty.gov, and the CDC at www.cdc.gov.
- Ignore offers for vaccinations. There are currently no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges, prescriptions or over-the-counter products available to treat or prevent COVID-19.
- Never let anyone pressure you or rush you into making a donation. Research before donating to charities and if you are asked for donations by cash, gift card or wire transfer, do not do it!
- Protect your personal and financial information, including your Social Security Number (SSN), bank account and credit card information. Do not respond to requests for your information.

Note: You may report scam predators to the FTC, Adult Protective Services (APS), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County APS at 1-(877) 565-2020,
or your local police department.