

Scams During Coronavirus

SCAMS – WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR:

Financial scams are rampant during a crisis like coronavirus. Beware of the calls, emails, texts:

- Offering mortgage, car payment, school loan solutions, if you cannot make payments
- Selling N95 masks, antibacterial wipes or soap
- Offering coronavirus vaccine (there is no vaccine as of April 2020)
- Deal only with companies with whom you have an existing relationship (i.e., your current mortgage company); avoid engaging in discussions with companies from whom you receive a random phone call or email.
- Never provide anyone with your Social Security, bank account information, date of birth, or mailing address
- Never click on a link within an email from a person or company you do not recognize
- Even if you recognize the name – look carefully at the email address. If it is from your bank: ABC Bank, but the email address is ABCBankiox.iu.com – and does not look normal - it's a fraud
- Most companies have an address that would look something like ABCBank.com
- It's best for you to find a company or have a trusted friend refer you to a company instead of receiving a random phone call or email
- If any provider offering a service (eliminate your debt, stop collection phone calls) is asking for you to mail, wire, Venmo money (\$100, \$500, \$2,000 or more) before they provide any service – do not do it!
- Ask a friend for advice or contact the Better Business Bureau. Search the company on BBB.com
- Google the company name and phone number for helpful information. Many times (but not always) scam information will appear.
- If you find yourself in a desperate financial situation – don't make it worse by falling for a scam. Scammers know people are desperate and will take advantage of you at a weak moment.

Helpful Links:

[FBI Alert – Protect Yourself from Coronavirus Scams](#)

[FCC.gov – Coronavirus Scams](#)

[FTC.gov](#)

[Treasury.gov](#)

[ConsumerFinance.gov](#)

[USA Today](#)

