

# Coronavirus Scams

The spread of the coronavirus is unfortunately great news for scammers who are cashing in on our anxiety about the disease. Look out for fake cures, phony prevention measures, and other coronavirus cons.

Con artists are impersonating the CDC and the World Health Organization in phishing emails. These messages claim to have news about the disease and prompt readers to download malicious software. Another scam email tries to con people into donating to a fake fundraising effort, claiming to be a government program to develop a coronavirus vaccine.

Read more about coronavirus scams on the Federal Trade Commission's website <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/02/coronavirus-scammers-follow-headlines>.

For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/> and the World Health Organization (WHO) <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.

Don't panic. Do your research: Be skeptical of alarmist and conspiracy theory claims and don't rush into buying anything that seems too good – or crazy – to be true. Always double check information you see online with official news sources. Currently there are no U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccines or drugs to prevent coronavirus infection, although treatments are in development. No approved vaccines, drugs, or products specifically for coronavirus can be purchased online or in stores.

Peddling quack medicines isn't the only way scammers are trying to cash in on coronavirus

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Seniors And Law Enforcement Together

# S.A.L.T. TIMES

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## This Election Season, Look Out For Donation Cons

Between the political ads and the news coverage, the 2020 presidential election is impossible to ignore. But voters aren't the only ones paying attention. According to recent BBB Scam Tracker reports, scammers are using phony political fundraising calls to trick Americans into "donating" to a favorite candidate.

### How the Scam Works

You receive a robocall and answer the phone. It's a recorded voice – perhaps even one that sounds just like one of the presidential candidates. According to the recording, rivals have been raising a lot of money. In order to see your favorite candidate elected, you need to donate... immediately.

If you offer to give, you'll be transferred to a live person and asked for your credit card information. But your money won't go to support the political cause. Instead, the phony caller will make off with your money and/or personal information that can be used for identity theft. As the 2020 election campaign

heats up, be on the lookout for more versions of this con.

### How to Avoid a Robocall Scam:

- Screen your calls. If a call comes in from a number you don't recognize, don't answer. Even if the number looks familiar, be wary. Check the number on WhitePages.com (a BBB Accredited Business) to see if it's been flagged with a fraud alert.
- Don't respond to unsolicited robocalls. If you receive an unsolicited robocall that seems to come from a legitimate business, be cautious. Scammers can fake caller ID, and businesses are only allowed to call you via robocall with your written permission. If someone is calling you out of the blue, it's most likely a scam. Best practice is to hang up the phone without interacting with the call.
- Register with the Do Not Call Registry. This step won't prevent scammers from calling you, but it will reduce the number of legitimate marketing calls you receive, which will make it easier to identify the fraudulent ones. If you live in the US, call 888-382-1222 or register online at <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.



## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2



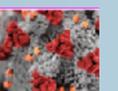
Census Bureau Scams

Page 3



Good Hand Hygiene Reduces Health Risks for Seniors

Page 4



Coronavirus Scams

# Census Bureau Scams - Count Me OUT

The Census Bureau, like many organizations, has its fair share of imposters, and they can be hard to spot. But knowing how the Census Bureau operates can help you be better prepared.

The Census Bureau may request information through almost all communication outlets, including

phone, email, mail, fax and in-person. But there are only three ways to reply to the census: phone, mail or online. The official website of the Census Bureau is <https://census.gov>; the homepage for the 2020 Census is <https://2020census.gov>.

Some of the information census takers request is personal. But the Census Bureau states that they will NEVER ask for your full social security number, money, donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your full bank or credit account numbers, or your mother's maiden name.

## Tips to Avoid Census Scams:

- **Never give out your social security number.** Census takers will never ask for your social security number, bank

account number, credit card number, money or donations.

- **Census takers will never**



(Getty)

**contact you on behalf of a political party.** If someone calls on behalf of a political party that claims to be from the census, hang up.

- **Make sure you respond to the census through Census.gov, the official website.** Your regional Census Bureau may also be able to help.
- **If something sounds suspicious, confirm it by calling the government agency directly or checking the government agency's website.** Don't click on any links in an unexpected email. Instead, type the official URL into your browser or do a web search to find the right website. Call a trusted phone number other than one provided by the caller to verify the caller's identity.

- **Don't click, download, or open anything that comes from an anonymous sender.** This is likely an attempt to gain access to your personal information or install malware on your computer.

There will be census takers going door-to-door in some neighborhoods to help get all of the information they need.

If a census taker comes to your door, there are several things you can do to verify their identity:

- Ask to see their ID Badge. Census takers must present a field badge that includes a photograph of themselves, a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.
- Census workers will be carrying a Census Bureau laptop or cellphone, as well as a bag with a Census Bureau logo.
- If you still have questions, call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

Check BBB Scam Tracker for local reports of imposters in your area, <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/us>.

## 2020 Census Timeline

**April 1:** Census Day is observed nationwide. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

**April:** Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers will also begin following up with households that have not yet responded in areas that include off-campus housing, where residents are not counted in groups.

**May - July:** Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Review basic facts about the 2020 Census and how the Census Bureau protects your data—and then share these facts with others. <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census.html>

## Coronavirus Resources and Updates

Retirement Connection has developed a resource page that will list specific CDC, and state resources, food resources for seniors, grocery deliver options, supply needs and actions for providers, and other quick reference resources. <https://retirementconnection.com/coronavirus>

## The April S.A.L.T. meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19.



## Good Hand Hygiene Reduces Health Risks for Seniors

Families and caregivers of seniors should understand the importance of hand hygiene as one of the most important preventative actions to guard against germs that contribute to colds and other diseases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, adults over the age of 65 years, especially those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, are at greater risk of serious complications from the flu as immune defenses become weaker with age. The flu can lead to infections such as pneumonia or complicate existing conditions, including asthma and heart disease.

80% of infectious disease is caused by touch. Invisible to detect, even clean hands can contain microscopic dirt that gets into the mouth, nose, eyes and, eventually, into the body. Germs can spread on hands in different ways:

- Handling food.
- Emptying trash.
- Using the toilet.
- Tending a wound.
- Caring for a sick person.
- Handling pets or their waste.
- Coughing or sneezing into hands.

Handwashing is an excellent prevention technique to decrease the spread of germs. It only takes just 20 seconds to wash hands properly. Most of us accomplish that task unsuccessfully in 5 seconds, not enough time to rid hands of germs. Using clean, running water and regular soap is sufficient to remove germs. Soap is important to handwashing as it contains surfactants that help remove germs from the skin. Plain soap works faster than antibacterial soap in removing germs. Hand sanitizer should not serve as a permanent substitute for hand washing with soap and water - that is the best way to eliminate germs.

Source: Visiting Angels