HSI
S.T.O.P. COVID-19 FRAUD
STRATEGIC TARGETED OUTREACH PROGRAM
Recognize • Protect • Report | COVID-19 Crime

ONLINE SHOPPING RED FLAGS FOR MARKETPLACE AND WEBSITES

- Do not click on unsolicited emails or texts.
- Ensure a secure browser connection: HTTPS only.
- Verify website trust seals before placing an order.
- Official U.S. government websites end in .gov.
- Inspect the URL of the website and verify the destination.

FINANCIAL RED FLAGS RELATED TO COVID-19

- Beware of emails, text messages, or calls offering goods, services, loans, or debt relief.
- Beware of requests for unusual payment methods, such as cryptocurrency, prepaid debit cards, gift cards, money service businesses (MSB) transfers, or wire transfers.
- Government agencies do not call, text, or email: check your mail, do not follow links on social media, and utilize government websites directly.
- Government agencies will not call or email about economic impact payments and will not refer to it as “stimulus” – do not open such emails or click on attachments.

PROHIBITED PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL DEVICES RED FLAGS

- Beware of websites or individuals selling products alleging they can prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19.
- Currently, no COVID-19 test kits are authorized for private sale to individuals. Authorized COVID-19 test kits are only being distributed to medical professionals.
- Beware of pharmaceutical product information written in a foreign language or with misspellings.
- Don’t buy prescription pharmaceuticals from third party marketplaces or social media platforms.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Thousands of COVID-19 related web domains have been identified as fraudulent.
- Government agencies will not contact anyone to verify a payment was made or to expedite payments.
- Consumers interested in finding out if a COVID-19 related product or website is “real or fake” can #AskGCI on Twitter @IPRCenter

ONLINE SHOPPING TIPS

- If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Be aware of price gouging.
- Verify purchases are from legitimate, trusted sources.
- Report COVID-19 fraud to COVID19FRAUD@DHS.GOV.

FINANCIAL TIP

-$ Reach out to your elderly friends and family members and warn them about these scams.

PROHIBITED ITEMS TIP

- Ensure your online pharmacy is certified by checking: www.safemedsonline.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
WWW.ICE.GOV

REPORT COVID-19 FRAUD TO
COVID19FRAUD@DHS.GOV