

Be aware of Coronavirus scams on your doorstep, on your phone or on the internet

Scams hope to take advantage of the most vulnerable in our communities, and our Trading Standards team is aware scam activity relating to COVID-19 in Nottinghamshire.

Here are just some of the scams we are aware of which are targeting Nottinghamshire communities:

- **Unwanted callers asking for donations** to help those in need during this time
- **Individuals making contact out of the blue** claiming to be from official organisations and asking for payment for the latest COVID-19 information and treatments which do not exist
- Calls and emails **offering miracle cures**
- Door-to-door visitors **claiming to be from the British Red Cross** offering testing
- **Individuals offering to do shopping and not returning with the bank card** and the groceries
- **Emails posing as the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO)**
- **Emails claiming to be from HMRC** offering a tax rebate due to the coronavirus
- **Text messages claiming to be from GOV.UK requesting money** for breaching stay at home regulations
- **Fraudulent messages** to parents entitled to free school meals requesting bank details.

Turn over to find out more how you can prevent being a victim of a scam.

How to prevent being scammed

While scams aren't always easy to spot, we've put together these top tips on protecting yourself and your loved ones from scams.

- Always ask for identification from those who turn up out of the blue at your property, and if in doubt call the organisation directly to verify
- Be suspicious of requests for money up front and never feel pressured into handing any over
- Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help and support. Those who are genuine will be happy to wait for your response
- Legitimate organisations will not contact you out of the blue to ask for payment. Make sure to remember this if you are contacted.
- If an email does not look right, never click on links or attachments. If you are unsure about whether an email is genuine, ask family and friends to make sure
- Protect your financial information, especially from those you don't know. Never give your bank card or pin number to a stranger
- If in doubt, don't be afraid to hang up, bin it, delete it or shut the door!

Talk to relatives about scams

If you are a carer or have an older relative, please be on the lookout for any signs that they have been scammed. Each situation is different but typical signs could include:

- receiving lots of unwanted calls
- unusual transactions on bank statements
- becoming unwilling to go out (just in case they miss the next phone call telling them what they have won)
- no money to buy food / pay bills
- lots of mail
- unwilling to throw any old post away.

For more information call the
Citizens Advice Consumer Service
on 0808 223 1133