

Learn How to Spot and Avoid COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Did you know that scammers are trying to profit from the vaccine rollout? You can stop them! Protect yourself by learning about common scams and where to get accurate information.

Common COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

- 📄 Requests for payment in order to be added to a vaccine waitlist
- 💰 Offers for early access to the vaccine for a fee
- 📧 Emails or phone calls from people claiming to work at a medical center or insurance company offering vaccine but requiring personal medical details to check eligibility
- 🗨️ Text messages, calls or emails claiming that the government is requiring you to get the vaccine and asking for payment or personal information
- 📢 Social media ads offering the COVID-19 vaccine for a fee.



BEWARE! Scammers are looking for money and personal information about your health and identity. Never share financial or personal information over the phone, by email or in a text message.

Tips for Avoiding a COVID-19 Vaccine Scam

DON'T

- ✗ **Don't pay to sign up for the vaccine.** Watch out for anyone who asks for payment to put you on a list, make an appointment for you or reserve a place in line for the vaccine.
- ✗ **Don't believe sales ads for the COVID-19 vaccine.** It is not for sale, anywhere. The vaccine is only available at federal- and state-approved locations, such as VA, state or local health departments, hospitals, vaccination centers and pharmacies.
- ✗ **Don't respond to unexpected or unusual texts or phone calls.**
- ✗ **Don't answer calls from unknown or suspicious numbers.**
- ✗ **Don't open emails, attachments or links from people you don't know.** Doing so could download dangerous [malware](#) onto your computer or phone.
- ✗ **Don't post your vaccination card on social media to show that you were vaccinated.** It contains information such as your full name and birth date that could lead to identity theft.

DO

- ✓ **Remember, the COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone, regardless of where you get your vaccine.**
- ✓ **Keep your personal, financial or health information secure.** VA, vaccine distribution sites, pharmacies, health insurance companies and Medicare will not ask for your Social Security, credit card or bank account number to sign up for a vaccine.
- ✓ **Be cautious if you're being pressured to share any information or make a payment immediately.** Check out offers with trusted family or friends before acting.
- ✓ **Be skeptical of anything that seems too good to be true.** Double check information about the vaccine with the VA, state or country where you want to get the vaccine.
- ✓ **Do sign up for VA's Keep Informed Tool.** Learn what is really happening with COVID-19 vaccination at VA.

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What You Can Do to Find Out About Vaccination Options

- VA will contact you when you become eligible for vaccination.
- Check the [VA COVID-19 vaccine website](#) to keep informed and to sign up for updates. You may also check with your care provider.
- In some cases, Veterans may be able to get vaccines sooner in the community. You can check your [state](#), [territorial](#) or [local](#) health department or local pharmacy for accurate information about where and how you can get the vaccine.

To Report a Scam

- If you think you've been a victim of a coronavirus scam, contact law enforcement immediately.
- File coronavirus scam complaints online with the [Federal Trade Commission](#).
- Report a scam to the [Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker](#).

To Learn More About COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Department of Veterans Affairs

- [Veterans – avoid COVID-19 vaccine scams](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Buyer Beware: How to Avoid Scams & Misinformation during COVID-19](#)

Federal Trade Commission

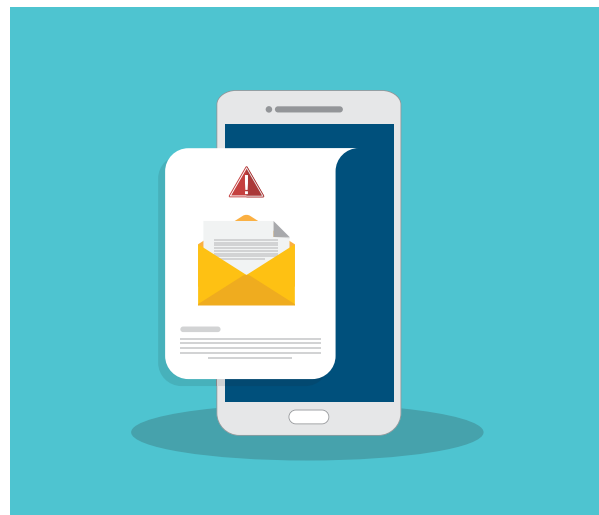
- [Consumer Information](#)

Better Business Bureau

- [BBB Scam Alert: AS COVID-19 vaccine rolls out, scammers cash in](#)

Sample Phone Scam

You get an automated call from a local pharmacy and they want to ask you questions so they can help you get a COVID-19 vaccine. They know your name. Should you answer their questions? (Answer is **NO, call the pharmacy yourself and ask how to sign up or visit their website to sign up to get the vaccine.**)



Sample Delivery Scam Text

Text Message

Today 9:34 AM

Hi, we have extra COVID-19 vaccine. Sign up and pay here.

[ca.trcck.com/.1ebf9d](#)

Reply Stop to Opt Out

