Here are **5 things** you can do to avoid a COVID-19 scam:

- **Always verify offers for at home test kits and vaccinations.**
  Scammers are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic by making unsubstantiated claims.

- **Hang up on robocalls.**
  Scammers use illegal sales call to get your money and your personal information.

- **Watch out for phishing emails and text messages.**
  Don’t click on links in emails or texts you didn’t expect.

- **Research before you donate.**
  Don’t let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at [ftc.gov/charity](http://ftc.gov/charity).

- **Stay in the know.**
  Go to [ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://ftc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC’s alerts at [ftc.gov/subscribe](http://ftc.gov/subscribe).

If you see a scam, report it to [StatenIslandDA.org](http://StatenIslandDA.org).
Buying a gift card to pay someone?

STOP. It’s a scam!

Gift cards are for gifts, not for payments.

Report gift card scams to the card issuer, the police, and the Federal Trade Commission.

Brought to you by the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office
Is someone on the phone telling you to pay them with a gift card to:

- pay an IRS debt
- keep your Social Security benefits
- keep your utilities on (electricity, water or heat)
- pay for tech support
- pay for a family member in trouble
- pay a member of the military needing money
- pay bail or ransom
- avoid arrest or deportation

If you answered yes, **HANG UP. It’s a scam.**
Gift cards are for gifts, not for paying someone.

For More Information or to Report a Scam Visit:

StatenIslandDA.gov/scams-information
Or Call
(718) 556-SCAM

Contact the card issuer:

**Amazon**
(888) 280-4331

**Ebay**
ebay.com/giftcardscams

**Google Play**
google.com/support

**iTunes**
(800) 275-2273

**MoneyPak**
moneypak.com/security
"Money Mule Scams"

Here’s how they work:

Someone might offer you a job. Or say you’ve won a sweepstakes. Or start an online relationship with you. Whatever the story, next they want to send you money – and then ask you to send it on to someone else. They often say to wire the money or use gift cards.

But that money is stolen. And there never was a job, a prize, or a relationship – only a scam. That scammer was trying to get you to be what some people call a “money mule.”

If you deposit a scammer’s check, it might clear. But later, when the bank finds out it’s a fake check, you’ll have to repay the bank. And if you help a scammer move stolen money – even if you didn’t know it was stolen – you could get into legal trouble.

Here’s what you can do:

1. **Keep your money to yourself.** Never agree to move money for someone who contacts you, even if they promise a relationship, job, or prize. You could lose money and get in legal trouble.

2. **Pass this information on to a friend.** You may see through these scams. But chances are you know someone who could use a friendly reminder.
Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office.

- Call the (718) 556-7226 (SCAM)
  Or email reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov.

- For more information visit us on the web at statenislandDA.org/scams-information

Help protect other people by reporting fraud to reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov. You can help us investigate and identify the scammers and stop them before they can get someone’s hardearned money. It really makes a difference.
"Your Grandchild Needs Help Scam"

Here’s how they work:

You get a call: “Grandma, I need money for bail.” Or money for a medical bill. Or some other kind of trouble. The caller says it’s urgent — and tells you to keep it a secret.

But is the caller who you think it is? Scammers are good at pretending to be someone they’re not. They can be convincing: sometimes using information from social networking sites, or hacking into your loved one’s email account, to make it seem more real. And they’ll pressure you to send money before you have time to think.

Here’s what you can do:

1. **Stop. Check it out.** Look up your grandkid’s phone number yourself, or call another family member.

2. **Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten one of these calls, but chances are you know someone who will get one — if they haven’t already.
Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office.

- Call (718) 566-5226 (SCAM) or email us at reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov

Your complaint can help protect other people. By filing a complaint, you can help our investigators identify the imposters and stop them before they can get someone’s hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.
Here’s how they work:
Someone knocks on your door or calls you. They say they can fix your leaky roof, install new windows, or provide the latest energy-efficient solar panels. They might find you after a flood, windstorm or other natural disaster. They pressure you to act quickly, might ask you to pay in cash, or offer to get you financing.

But here’s what happens next: they run off with your money and never make the repairs. Or they do shoddy repairs that make things worse. Maybe they even put you in a bad financing agreement that puts your house at risk.

Here’s what you can do:
1. **Stop. Check it out.** Before making home repairs, ask for references, licenses and insurance. Get three written estimates. Don’t start work until you have a signed contract. And don’t pay by cash or wire transfer.

2. **Pass this information on to a friend.** You may see through these scams. But chances are you know someone who could use a friendly reminder.
Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office.

• Call the us at (718) 556-7226 (SCAM)
• Email us at reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov

Your report can help protect other people. By reporting fraud to reportscams@rdca.nyc.gov. Help our investigators identify the scammers and stop them before they can get someone’s hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.
Why report scams?
Because your report can help protect people you care about. It can help the us shut down scammers and also by reporting you can help keep others from getting scammed.

The more you know about these scams the better prepared you are to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

Here are some warning signs of a scam. When you see a warning sign, stop. Talk about it. Always verify who you are speaking with or sending money to. Visit statenislandDA.org/scams-information/ or call (718) 556- SCAM (7226).
Warning Signs of a Scam

Did someone promise you a job – if you pay them?
Never pay anyone who promises you a job, a certificate that will get you a job, or secret access to jobs. Those are scams.

Did the IRS call saying you owe money?
The IRS never calls to ask for money.

Did someone else from the government call, threatening you and demanding money?
The government doesn’t call to threaten you or ask for money.

Entering the Diversity Visa Lottery to get a Green Card?
It’s free to apply and the choice is random. No one can increase your chance of winning.

Looking for legal help with immigration?
Use a lawyer or an accredited representative, never a notario.

Did you get a call or email saying you won something? Except there’s a fee?
Never pay for a prize. That’s a scam. You’ll lose your money.

Did a caller offer to help you get back some money you lost?
No government agency or legitimate business will call and demand money to help you get money back.

Did you get a check from someone who asked you to give them part of the money back?
Never give someone money in return for a check. Fake checks can look real and fool the bank. You’ll have to pay back all the money.

Did you get an email, text, or call asking for your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number?
Never give that information to anyone who asks over email, text or phone.

Ways to Protect Yourself and Your Information

- Don’t carry your important papers or ID cards with you.
- Don’t click on links in emails unless you’re sure you know what it is. Clicking can put bad programs on your device.
- If you’re shopping or applying for a job online, make sure the website starts with https. The ‘s’ means the site is secure.
- If you think someone stole your identity, visit IdentityTheft.gov for help.
- Sign up for the Do Not Call Registry: DoNotCall.gov.
"IRS Imposter Scams"

Here’s how they work:

You get a call from someone who says she’s from the IRS. She says that you owe back taxes. She threatens to sue you, arrest or deport you, or revoke your license if you don’t pay right away. She tells you to put money on a prepaid debit card and give her the card numbers.

The caller may know some of your Social Security number. And your caller ID might show a Washington, DC area code. But is it really the IRS calling?

No. The real IRS won’t ask you to pay with prepaid debit cards or wire transfers. They also won’t ask for a credit card over the phone. And when the IRS first contacts you about unpaid taxes, they do it by mail, not by phone. And caller IDs can be faked.

Here’s what you can do:

1. **Stop. Don’t wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card.** Once you send it, the money is gone. If you have tax questions, go to irs.gov or call the IRS at 800-829-1040.

2. **Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten one of these calls, but the chances are you know someone who has.
Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Call (718) 556-SCAM (7226)
- Go online: statenislandDA.org/scams-information/

By reporting a scam to reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov you can help our investigators identify the imposters and stop them before they can get someone’s hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.
Stay Vigilant Against Fraud and Identity Theft on Social Media
Block and report these fraudsters and any others who purport to be NYS DOL.
Here’s how they work:

You meet someone special on a dating website. Soon he wants to move off the dating site to email or phone calls. He tells you he loves you, but he lives far away — maybe for business, or because he’s in the military.

Then he asks for money. He might say it’s for a plane ticket to visit you. Or emergency surgery. Or something else urgent.

Scammers, both male and female, make fake dating profiles, sometimes using photos of other people — even stolen pictures of real military personnel. They build relationships — some even fake wedding plans — before they disappear with your money.

Here’s what you can do:

1. **Stop. Don’t send money.** Never wire money, put money on a prepaid debit card, or send cash to an online love interest. You won’t get it back.

2. **Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten one of these calls, but chances are you know someone who will get one — if they haven’t already.
Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Call us at (718)556-SCAM (7226)
- Email us at reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov

Your reporting can help protect other people. By filing a report, you can help our investigators identify the imposters and stop them before they can get someone’s hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.
Identity theft is one of the most nefarious crimes out there. Here are seven ways to help protect yourself:

**Secure Your Hard Copies**
Every sensitive document should be kept in a safe. Credit cards and debit cards should be securely placed in your wallet at all times.

*BONUS TIP:* Shred all aged documents that contain sensitive information.

**Choose Strong Passwords**
Use different, strong passwords for each of your accounts and devices.

*BONUS TIP:* Use a secure password service to create and store unique passwords.

**Examine Your Financial Statements**
Review your financial statements monthly and check carefully for fraudulent activity. Report any suspicious charges immediately.

*BONUS TIP:* Sign up for alerts and limit your credit card activity to a specific geographic area.

**Protect Your Computer**
Invest in a strong anti-spyware program to protect your hardware from hackers.

*BONUS TIP:* Encrypt your hard drive for an extra level of protection.

**Avoid Public Wi-Fi**
Public Wi-Fi is a great hunting ground for thieves; steer clear if you can. At the very least, avoid all online banking or password logins while using public Wi-Fi.

*BONUS TIP:* Secure your own home Wi-Fi with a strong password.

*BONUS TIP:* Encrypt your hard drive for an extra level of protection.

Report scams to (718) 556-SCAM(7226) or email reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov

District Attorney
Michael E. McMahon
Wells Fargo 1:57 PM
to me, gravesedw...

From: Wells Fargo • andresfritz885@gmail.com

To: (redacted)

Date: Jul 21, 2021, 1:57 PM

cochlearn.com did not encrypt this message.

View security details

Why is this message in spam?

It is similar to messages that were identified as spam in the past.

Report not spam
Accept my offer now and I will dedicate myself to discovering your Future in just 2 hours!

Find Luck, Money, Love like the Stars.

>> Please check <<

UNSUBSCRIBE

This address is for mail only:
1820 Avenue M #534 - Brooklyn, NY 11230
Every day, scammers are targeting seniors. These con artists can be manipulative and convincing. Many people on a fixed income are losing hundreds or thousands of dollars. Don’t be a victim!

**REMEMBER:**

- Scammers can easily find information about you on the Internet, including your name, address, and names of family members. They will use personal information to convince you that they are legitimate.
- Never give out personal information or credit card numbers to someone who calls you.
- You should be wary if someone asks to be paid by wire transfer, money order, or pre-paid gift card. This is a huge red flag!
- When in doubt, call to someone you trust to verify **before you send money**.

**COMMON SCAMS**

- Scammers will pose as public servants such as police officers, court officials, or IRS agents. They may tell you that you have an arrest warrant for missing jury duty or failing to pay taxes. Don’t believe them!
- Scammers may call pretending to be a young relative traveling out of the country. They will say they are in trouble and ask for money to get out of jail or to help them return to the U.S.
- Scammers will befriend seniors on online dating sites. Over time, they will begin asking for money to help with expenses.
- Scammers may say you have won a prize. If they ask for any money up front, it is a scam!
Watch your P’s it Could be a SCAM!

1. PRETEND
Scammers often pose as an official contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, IRS, Medicare, or a made up name that sounds official.

2. PROBLEM or PRIZE
Scammers may say you’re in trouble with the government, you owe money, someone in your family had an emergency, or that there is a virus on your computer. Others will lie and say you won money but have to pay a fee to get it.

3. PRESSURE
Scammers want you to act before you have time to think about it. If you’re on the phone, they will tell you not to hang up so you can’t check out their story.

4. PAY
They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company, or by purchasing a gift card and giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a fake check and tell you to deposit it and then send them money.

How to Report Scams?
If you were scammed or think you have been scammed, please call

(718) 556-7226 (SCAM)
Email reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov

What can you do to Avoid Scams?
- Block unwanted calls and Text Messages.
- Don’t give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn’t expect.
- Resist the pressure to act immediately. Always verify with someone you trust!
"Work at Home Scams"

Here’s how they work:

You see an ad saying you can earn big money at home. Or one that offers help starting an online business – with a proven system to make money online. Or maybe your resume is on a job search website and someone calls: they want your driver’s license and bank account numbers before they interview you.

What happens next? If you answer the ad to work from home, they’ll ask you for money for training or special access. But there’ll be no job. If you buy that “proven system,” you’ll get pressure to pay more for extra services. But you won’t get anything that really helps you start a business or make money. And if you give that caller your driver’s license and bank account numbers, they might steal your identity or your money.

Here’s what you can do:

1. Stop. Check it out. Never pay money to earn money. And don’t share personal information until you’ve done your research. Search online for the company name and the words “review,” “scam” or “complaint.”

2. Pass this information on to a friend. You probably know how to keep your money and information safe. But you may know someone who could use a friendly reminder.
Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Call our office at (718) 556-SCAM (7226)
- Go online: statenislandda.org/scams-information/

Your report can help protect other people. By reporting fraud, you can help the FTC’s investigators identify the scammers and stop them before they can get someone’s hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.