

# HSSI

## 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 E-MAILS, 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 E-MAIL: CHECK YOUR MAIL, DO NOT FOLLOW LINKS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND UTILIZE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES DIRECTLY.
- ✗ GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL NOT CALL OR E-MAIL ABOUT ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS AND WILL NOT REFER TO IT AS "STIMULUS" - DO NOT OPEN SUCH E-MAILS 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 #AskGTI 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](mailto: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](http://WWW.SAFEMEDSONLINE.ORG).

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.ICE.GOV](http://WWW.ICE.GOV)

REPORT COVID-19 FRAUD TO  
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U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement



REPORT FRAUD