

# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CORONAVIRUS SCAMS



Attorney General

**Josh Stein**



Report scams to the North Carolina Department of Justice at [ncdoj.gov/complaint](https://ncdoj.gov/complaint) or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.



## DON'T BUY MIRACLE CURES

According to health officials, no product exists that will prevent you from getting the coronavirus or cure you if you already have the virus. The best way to protect yourself is by taking common-sense health precautions. Beware of people selling cure-all vaccines, drugs, or any other products. Consult with a doctor or health professional before you buy. Remember - if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.



## DON'T FALL FOR ROBOCALLS

We're seeing reports of robocallers ramping up their efforts to steal your money with coronavirus-related scam calls. Don't fall for calls pretending to be from your health insurance company, health experts, the government, or people offering cure-all products or solutions for the virus. Report robocalls to [ncdoj.gov/norobo](https://ncdoj.gov/norobo) or 1-844-8-NO-ROBO.



## BEWARE OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Be careful about where you get your information. Stick to trusted resources for updates, including NCDHHS and the CDC. Watch out for phishing emails and texts about the coronavirus that appear to be from health or government officials, and don't open or download anything or share information with others unless you've verified who you're communicating with.



## AVOID CHARITY SCAMS

Make sure that any donations you give are going to real charities addressing the coronavirus, not scammers. Verify charities through the North Carolina Secretary of State, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Watch, or Charity Navigator. Ask how your donation will be used, and pay by credit card for security and tax record purposes.



## BE A SMART SHOPPER

Take a moment before you buy in-demand items like hand sanitizers, face masks, cleaning products, or groceries. Don't overstock on supplies you may not need. Before you make a purchase, check with your doctor to confirm whether you actually need it. Check company/product reviews before you buy, and avoid high-pressure or time-limited offers. North Carolina's price gouging law is in effect, which makes it illegal to charge too much during a crisis. Report potential price gouging at [ncdoj.gov/gouging](https://ncdoj.gov/gouging) or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.