



SCAMMER SCORECARD

November 2020

November in Review

In November, more than 260,000 reports were filed with the FTC related to COVID-19 and federal stimulus scams. Individuals who filed complaints reported nearly \$200 million in money lost to scammers, and the majority of reports were about online shopping. As we continue through the holiday season, scammers are trying new and creative tactics to take advantage of people who are shopping online in response to the pandemic and stay-at-home orders.

When you're shopping online, try to buy from established companies, and double check that a website is legitimate (look for the lock icon and a URL starting with https in the URL address bar). Pay by credit card so you can dispute charges if necessary, and make sure you ask questions about shipping and handling fees and refunds. Don't give out personal information like your driver's license, bank account, or Social Security numbers - you don't need this information to buy something online. Watch out for scammers trying to take advantage of the increase in packages being delivered to trick people into paying non-existent delivery fees. Report scams or disputes to our office at nccdoj.gov/complaint or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.



192

Elder Fraud Complaints

\$575,750

Lost



636

2020 Total Count: 8,231

Robocall Reports

Robocall scammers leverage fear and threats to try to get your money and personal information. Don't fall for it - report robocalls to our office at nccdoj.gov/norobo or at 1-844-8-NO-ROBO.



Be on the lookout for... COVID-19 testing scams

Consumers have been incurring unexpected charges when getting a COVID-19 test. To avoid a surprise charge, consider getting tested at an NCDHHS free testing event. Before you visit, ask your doctor or health care provider if you'll be charged for other services, and how they'll bill if you have no insurance. If you get an unexpected charge, call our office at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

Don't fall for COVID-19 vaccine scams

COVID-19 vaccines are on the way, but they're not here yet. These vaccines are still being reviewed and approved by the FDA. Be aware of potential scams about vaccines and treatments:

- Right now, there is no FDA-approved, available COVID-19 vaccine. If someone reaches out to you offering a vaccine, it's a scam.
- Don't respond to unsolicited calls, texts, emails, or social media offers about vaccines or treatments.
- Talk to your doctor if you're unsure about purchasing a medical product, or to get more information about receiving vaccines when they're available.



If you or a loved one has been the victim of a scam, report it to our office:

nccdoj.gov/complaint or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM