

# SCAMALERT

This is a reminder for all older adults to be alert to scams during this time. Below are some of the scams to look out for (from the FTC and AARP) as well as some key things to remember.

- Social Security reports that some people who receive benefits are getting fraudulent letters claiming their benefits will be suspended due to COVID-19 related office closures. SS is NOT suspending any benefits and NEVER requests people to pay a fee to receive their benefits.
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There are no products proven to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time.

- Watch out for phishing emails and texts. Do not click on links from sources you do not know.
- When it comes to stimulus checks, remember the government will not ask you to pay anything up front for this. There will be no fees or charges taken from it. The government will also not call to ask for your bank account number, your social security number, or your credit card number.

Remember:

- Talk with a trusted family member or friend. If something seems slightly off or even too good to be true, make sure you run it by a trusted family member or friend before giving out any information.

- Do not rush. If you get a call requesting/sharing information, do not be rushed. Scammers will try to rush you; legitimate agencies will not. This also applies to “emergency” scams. If you receive a call about someone you know in trouble and needing help right away, verify the caller’s identity. Ask a question only that person would know. Call a number that you know is right and verify.
- Don’t send cash, gift cards, or money transfers. This money cannot be gotten back.

***Stay safe  
and aware!***