

COVID-19 Fraud – The IRS Warns of “Stimulus Check” Scams



Scammers use every opportunity to swindle vulnerable Americans, especially those in a state of need.

The IRS is urging taxpayers to be on the lookout for a surge of scams related to the Coronavirus, or COVID-19 ([click here to access their recent news release](#)).

Please keep in mind:

- The U.S. Government will **NEVER** call, e-mail or text you asking for bank details, social security numbers or money
- If you receive a phone call, text, social media message or e-mail asking for personal details or money in order to get a “stimulus check”, **IT IS A SCAM**
- NEVER pay anyone a “processing fee” who promises they can expedite a payment for you
- Most people who qualify to receive a direct payment do not need to sign up, apply, or “verify” any personal information
- Scammers may emphasize the words “Stimulus Check/Payment”; however, the official term is Economic Impact Payment.
- It will be a few weeks before economic impact payments are sent out by the Treasury Department. **IF YOU RECEIVE A CHECK NOW, IT IS FRAUD.**
- The U.S. Government will **NEVER** contact you on Facebook, Instagram, or any other social media platform asking for personal and/or banking details in order for you to receive your Economic Impact Payment.
- Beware of “fake agencies” asking for your Social Security Number to verify your eligibility.
- Beware of correspondence claiming to be from the IRS outside of mail received from the U.S. Post Office. The IRS is relying on direct deposit information provided on recent tax returns to send out economic impact payments.

If you receive an unsolicited email, text message, or social media attempt to gather information that appears to be from the IRS, please forward it to phishing@irs.gov.