

# Watch out for virus scams

CRIMINALS are cashing in on the coronavirus pandemic by using scams to target vulnerable and older people to steal money and identities.

The National Crime Agency warns that cyber criminals are using Covid-19-themed malicious apps and websites, as well as email phishing attacks, to steal personal and financial information.

Independent charity Crimestoppers wants to stop isolated and vulnerable people from becoming victims of crime by helping them to find trusted sources of information and reporting.

## Fraudsters' tactics

- Claiming to provide victims with a list of active infections in their
- area but requires disclosure of personal information/donation. A virus can be inserted into your computer.
- Sending investment scheme and trading advice, encouraging people to take advantage of the coronavirus downturn.
- Claiming to be healthcare workers offering 'home-testing' for Covid-19 or attempting to get victims to disclose personal information.
- Claiming to be from HMRC offering a tax refund and directing victims to a fake website to harvest personal and financial details.
- Extorting money by claiming they are collecting donations for a Covid-19 'vaccine'.
- Selling fake sanitisers, masks and Covid-19 swabbing kits online and door-to-door.
- Offering fake holiday refunds for those forced to cancel trips.

For more information, visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call **0300 123 2040** or visit [friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://friendsagainstscams.org.uk)

## How to fight fraud

Before giving any personal information ask yourself:

Who wants my details and why?  
Are they genuine?  
Have they verified who they are?  
Would the person they claim to be request that information?  
Have I destroyed any personal or financial information or receipts?

If you have any suspicions, don't give your details until you have checked everything. Anyone in a rush to complete, is probably a fraudster.

To learn more about protecting yourself visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

## Speak up about crime and stay safe

When you report a crime, Crimestoppers won't ask your name or any personal details. We just listen to what you know and pass it on.

When you hang up the phone after calling **0800 555 111** or click 'send' to [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org) you're done.

Calls or online information can't be tracked or traced. The only person who knows you contacted us is you.

**No police.**

**No witness statements.**

**No courts.**

Tell our charity what you know. We take information in more than 150 languages.

**Someone at the door?  
Suspicious new email?  
Strange letter in the post?  
Unknown phone call?**

**Stop**  
Think before you act.

**Challenge**  
Are you certain of their intentions?

**Check**  
Are you sure they are who they say they are?

**Protect**  
Contact a trusted person immediately if in doubt.

[crimestoppers-uk.org/  
keeping-safe/safer-streets](http://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/safer-streets)

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.