

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF RAND HENDERSON

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2020

MCTXSheriff Issues Alert to Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using [illegal robocalls](#) to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls, instead.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the Coronavirus. Visit the [FDA](#) to learn more.

Fact-check information. Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources. Visit [What the U.S. Government is Doing](#) for links to federal, state and local government agencies.

Know who you're buying from. [Online sellers](#) may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household, and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.

Don't respond to texts and emails about [checks from the government](#). The details are still being worked out. Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer.

[Don't click on links from sources you don't know](#). They could download viruses onto your computer or device.

Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO).

Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through [charities](#) or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

Lieutenant Scott Spencer
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Administrative Services
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We've seen an increase in malicious emails, mobile applications and websites promoting fraudulent COVID-19 information. However, there are things you can do to protect your personal information.



TEXT MESSAGES

Do not click on text message links from unknown senders or with a title advertising important COVID-19 information

EMAILS

Don't click on emails that appear to be from an unknown source or contains a link and a short message with a tone of urgency.



THIRD PARTY APPS

Don't download third-party apps or websites that advertise they have the latest COVID-19 information. Instead rely on information from the CDC, WHO, OCHhealth or AlertOC.

