




Office of Inspector General
Legal Services Corporation




How to Protect Yourself from Scams

- ***Independently** verify the identity of anyone that contacts you regarding COVID-19.
- ***Check** the websites and email addresses offering information, products, or services related to COVID-19. Be aware that scammers often employ addresses that differ only slightly from those belonging to the entities they are impersonating; they might use "cdc.com" or "cdc.org" instead of "cdc.gov."
- ***Be wary** of unsolicited emails offering supplies, or treatment for COVID-19 or requesting your personal information for medical purposes. Legitimate health authorities will not contact the general public this way.
- ***Do not click** on links or open email attachments from unknown or unverified sources. Doing so could download a virus onto your computer or device.
- ***Make sure** the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is operating and up to date.
- ***Ignore offers** for a COVID-19 vaccine, cure, or treatment. Remember, if there is a medical breakthrough, you won't hear about it for the first time through an email or solicitor.*Check online reviews of any company offering COVID-19 products or supplies. Avoid companies whose customers have complained about not receiving items.
- ***Research** charities or crowdfunding sites soliciting donations related to COVID-19 before giving. An organization may not be legitimate even if it uses words like "CDC" or "government" in its name or uses reputable looking seals or logos.

For further assistance, contact Legal Services of Northern Virginia

 **ONLINE** Our [online application](#)

 **BY PHONE** We primarily accept requests for assistance by phone (703-778-6800) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 1:30 pm. to 3:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Telephone intake is not available on Friday

IN PERSON At this time we are currently not accepting in-person applications.

For online resources on donating wisely, visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>. Be wary of **anyone** requesting payments or donations in cash, by wire transfer, gift card, or mail. **Don't** send money through any of these channels.

Don't forget to review LSNV's Flyer, "Types of Scams"