

## **COVID-19 SCAMS**

## Scammers are constructing schemes related to COVID-19 (coronavirus) to commit fraud.

The United States Department of Justice recommends that Americans take the following precautionary measures to protect themselves from known and emerging scams related to COVID-19:

- **Independently verify** the identity of any company, charity, or individual that contacts you regarding COVID-19.
- Check the websites and email addresses offering information, products, or services related to COVID-19.
- **Be wary of unsolicited emails** offering information, supplies, or treatment for COVID-19 or requesting your personal information for medical purposes.
- Do not click on links or open email attachments from unknown or unverified sources.
- 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.
- Check online reviews of any company offering COVID-19 products or supplies.
- **Research any charities or crowdfunding sites** soliciting donations in connection with COVID-19 before giving any donation.
- Be wary of any business, charity, or individual requesting payments or donations in cash, by wire transfer, gift card, or through the mail.
- **Be cautious of "investment opportunities"** tied to COVID-19, especially those based on claims that a small company's products or services can help stop the virus.

**If you suspect that you are a victim of a scam or attempted fraud involving COVID-19,** contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via email at disaster@leo.gov, or report it to the FBI at tips.fbi.gov. If it is a cyberscam, submit your complaint through ic3.gov/default.aspx.

## extension.uga.edu

## **Temporary Publication 110**

April 2020

Published by the University of Georgia in cooperation with Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and counties of the state. For more information, contact your local UGA Cooperative Extension office. The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (working cooperatively with Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the counties of Georgia) offers its educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or protected veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action organization.