



3/27/20

Dear Fellow Community Organization,

We realize that your entity may be the only defense some of our communities have and want to make sure we leave no avenue untouched in our defense against scammers preying on the much underserved market segments we so desperately engage and protect. The BBB is warning that scammers are coming out of the woodwork to exploit the coronavirus crisis to steal money and/or confidential information from consumers and businesses.

We have heard from businesses and consumers the following is happening currently in our marketplace, they include:

- Phony treatments and cures that could be dangerous
- Bogus offers for government grants and stimulus payments promoted through multiple channels
- Fraudulent websites selling face masks, home testing kits, and vaccines of which there are none approved at this time
- Government Imposters posing as unemployment offices asking for confidential information about employees
- Phishing emails with dangerous links and attachments
- Investment scams due to the market volatility
- Unscrupulous Business behavior in regards to pricing for basic necessities
- Fake Charity Appeals
- Scam calls have risen due to the population availability across North America as Shelter in Place decrees are mandated

BBB offers the following:

- Be skeptical of cures
- Check out any seller or charity with the BBB
- Government will not ask you to pay a fee
- Government will not ask for money or information to get a stimulus payment
- Don't click on links or attachments in emails, text messages, or social media messages
- Thoroughly research any investment opportunity and the seller

BBB has created a microsite dedicated to this information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) whether it be looking for or reporting a scam, tips for your business, price gouging, charity opportunities or more [BBB.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](http://BBB.ORG/CORONAVIRUS). We lean on your involvement and concern for our communities to distribute this message in the hopes of protecting what we've all built to this point. Feel free to contact us at [bbbnt@nctx.bbb.org](mailto:bbbnt@nctx.bbb.org) or leave a message at 940-691-1172 and a BBB Professional will respond.

Sincerely,  
Monica Horton  
Wichita Falls President



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