

Be Aware and Avoid COVID Scams

Newburyport Bank wants to help you avoid becoming the victim of a COVID19 scam. Fraudsters are attempting to prey on victims' fears during this difficult time so it's more important than ever to be vigilant when it comes to the security of your personal and financial information.

The following tips are provided by the FTC:

- Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about checks from the government.
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There are no known products to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time.
- Be wary of ads for test kits. Most test kits being advertised have not been approved by the FDA, and aren't necessarily accurate.
- Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-from-home schemes.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.

For more information from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) visit their website and use the search term coronavirus.

In addition the FCC has provided detailed information regarding text scams and robocalls. That information can be found at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) website using the search term covid-scams.

Also use caution when downloading mobile apps. While we are all eager to monitor the impact of COVID19, not all apps are legitimate. Cybercriminals have developed illegitimate apps that appear to track the virus, but once downloaded, are just a way to gain access to your device.

As always, remember that Newburyport Bank will not request that you provide personal or financial information over the phone or online. When in doubt always verify a caller or sender of an email via a different method than the one they used to contact you.