



BE SAFE | BE INFORMED | BE AWARE

# FIGHTING FRAUD



Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging  
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enoa.org

with **ENOA**



## Omaha Police Department

It has been brought to our attention that citizens have been receiving phone calls from Scammers claiming to be with OPD and asking for personal and/or financial information. Some scammers are even spoofing the caller ID to make it appear that the calls are coming from the Omaha Police Department.

The Omaha Police Department will **NEVER** call requesting donations, banking, or personal information over the phone.

We want the community to know about this scam and remind everyone to never give out personal or financial information over the phone.

Examples of information you **SHOULD NEVER SHARE** include but are not limited to;

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

**DATE OF BIRTH**

**DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER**

**CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD NUMBERS**

**BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS**



## SCAM ALERT

Have you received a text message like the one below? Don't click on the link. Scammers are sending out this "**smishing scam**" to cause confusion with the ultimate goal of trying to get you to click on the hyperlink, so they can collect your sensitive data.

**DELETE RIGHT AWAY.** Apple will never send you a text message to alert you about something.

**PLEASE SHARE, SO WE CAN HELP WARN OTHERS!**



Scammers use the coronavirus national emergency to take advantage of people while they're distracted.

# GUARD YOUR MEDICARE CARD

like a credit card.



If someone calls asking for your Medicare number, hang up!

Scammers may use the coronavirus national emergency to take advantage of people while they're distracted. As always, guard your Medicare card like a credit card, check Medicare claims summary forms for errors, and if someone calls asking for your Medicare number, hang up!

**Visit [www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org) or SMP National Resource Center page for more Consumer COVID Fraud information.**



To report fraud, contact 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227), the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Resource Center (877-808-2468), or the Inspector General's at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (447-8477).

# How To Tell A Real COVID-19 Contact Tracer's Call From A Scammer's



Beware of scammers. Legitimate contact tracers will never ask you for any sort of payment or seek other financial information or your Social Security number.

*Karl Tapales/Getty Images*

State officials and federal agencies warn there's a new phone scam circulating: Callers posing as COVID-19 contact tracers are trying to pry credit card or bank account information from unsuspecting victims.

The grifters apparently are taking advantage of a genuine public health intervention that is crucial to stopping the spread of the novel coronavirus: contact tracing.

In one scam, detailed in a warning from the Montana attorney general, fraudsters are telling their victims, "I'm calling from your local health department to let you know that you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19."

Then they move in for the kill, asking for payment information "before we continue."

Don't fall for that, say public health advocates and officials. Legitimate contact tracers don't ask for payment or seek other financial information.

"That is absolutely not part of the process," says Crystal Watson, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "No one should give bank information or credit card information."

## SIGNS OF A FRAUDSTER

Be concerned if you get an initial text asking you to click on a link, which might be spam and could download software onto your phone, the Federal Trade Commission warns.

"Unlike a legitimate text message from a health department, which only wants to let you know they'll be calling, this message includes a link to click," the FTC says. And contact tracers in most regions do not ask your immigration or financial status.

Another clear red flag: being asked for your Social Security number. Don't ever divulge that. And beware of any caller who gives you names of the COVID-19 patients they say led them to you — that's a sign of a scammer.

"An authorized contact tracer will not disclose the identity of the person who tested positive and is the starting place for that tracing effort," the Wisconsin attorney general's office notes in a recent statement outlining ways consumers can spot and protect themselves from such scams.

Finally, if you think you've been contacted by a scammer — by phone, email or text — report that to regulatory agencies, such as your state attorney general's office.

"If you see something, say something," said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra in a recent consumer alert his office issued. "We are working to track these impostors."

### FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/08/20/903664222/how-to-tell-a-real-covid-19-contact-tracers-call-from-a-scammers>

## TO STOP ELDER ABUSE

Report Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly  
or  
Vulnerable Adults

Call **1-800-652-1999**

Nebraska Adult Protective Services



\*Calls can be made anonymously