

Date March 26, 2020

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - March 27, 2020

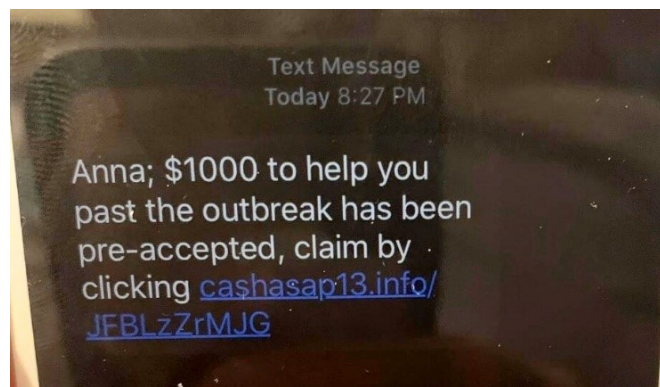


As we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic impacting our state, an altogether different type of disease is emerging—scammers using the crisis to rip off Floridians.

We will not tolerate anyone taking advantage of Floridians who are simply trying to protect the health and safety of their families. My Consumer Protection Division is working diligently to identify, investigate and stop COVID-19 related scams.

You can help us by staying up to date on the latest fraud tactics.

This week, I issued a Consumer Alert outlining some of those tactics—like the text message pictured below asking people to click on a link to claim a \$1,000 payment, apparently connected to a federal stimulus package.



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is reporting a scam involving fraudsters calling older Americans and offering free COVID-19 test kits and seeking Medicare information.

COMMENTS	
<u>Comment</u>	<u>Redacted</u>
THE OIG HOTLINE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TIP: THE FRAUDSTER ASKED MY MOTHER (90 YEARS OLD) TO PROVIDE HER NEW MEDICARE ID # SO THEY CAN SEND A "FREE" CORONAVIRUS TEST KIT GIVEN SHE HAS RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVATE AND SHE BELIEVED WOULD ONLY BE KNOWN BY SOMEONE LEGITIMATELY WORKING FOR MEDICARE). THEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS IS MANDATED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP AND VICE PRESIDENT PENCE. GIVEN THE CURRENT COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCE IN OUR COUNTRY, IT WAS EASY TO BE CONVINCED. IT IS OBVIOUSLY FRAUD. SHAME ON THESE PEOPLE.	NO

The scariest tactic we are hearing about involves people dressed in white lab coats and masks impersonating Centers for Disease Control and Prevention workers. According to several law enforcement agencies, the imposters are knocking on doors and offering free COVID-19 tests.

Please know that the CDC is not sending people door-to-door. If a CDC impersonator shows up at your door, do not let them in. Close the door and call 911.

These are just a few of the latest COVID-19 scams we are seeing. For information on other emerging scams, click [here](#).

Please stay safe, listen to health experts and take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



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