



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

- ***Independently** verify the identity of anyone that contacts you regarding COVID-19.
- ***Check** the websites and email addresses offering information, products, or services related to COVID-19. Be aware that scammers often employ addresses that differ only slightly from those belonging to the entities they are impersonating; they might use “cdc.com” or “cdc.org” instead of “cdc.gov.”
- ***Be wary** of unsolicited emails offering supplies, or treatment for COVID-19 or requesting your personal information for medical purposes. Legitimate health authorities will not contact the general public this way.
- ***Do not click** on links or open email attachments from unknown or unverified sources. Doing so could download a virus onto your computer or device.
- ***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. Remember, if there is a medical breakthrough, you won't hear about it for the first time through an email or solicitor.***Check** online reviews of any company offering COVID-19 products or supplies. Avoid companies whose customers have complained about not receiving items.
- ***Research** charities or crowdfunding sites soliciting donations related to COVID-19 before giving. An organization may not be legitimate even if it uses words like “CDC” or “government” in its name or uses reputable looking seals or logos.

For further assistance, contact Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society



ONLINE Our online application



BY PHONE We accept requests for assistance by phone (1-888-201-2772) Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. OR Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m.

For online resources on donating wisely, visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts> Be wary of *anyone* requesting payments or donations in cash, by wire transfer, gift card, or mail. **Don't** send money through any of these channels.

Don't forget to review SVLAS's Flyer, "Types of Scams"