



January 8, 2021 Update (#258)

To: Building Staff & Residents
From: Charles H. Greenthal Management Corp.
Re: ***The US. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) Warns of COVID-19 Vaccine Scams***

The FBI, AARP, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) have issued fraud alerts recently, reporting that one of the fastest-growing scams has been connected to the COVID vaccine – specifically aimed at Americans eager to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

It's the latest COVID con job. Too good to be true offers, for just a few bucks let you jump the line to get a dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine currently not offered to the general public. Be wary before you click on an attachment or fork over any funds.

- The next scam is phishing attacks. The phony emails spoof a health care provider, saying you can "reserve your vaccine today" just "fill out the form." When you do, you'll be giving your personal information to an ID thief.
 - Also, on the form, "password" is misspelled. That's a red flag.
- Local law enforcement warns of robocalls offering the vaccine. If you get one, simply hang up.
- Watch out for tainted texts. If you click on it, it could infect your computer with malware.
- Some big takeaways, if a scammer asks you for money to get vaccinated - it's a scam. ***The vaccine is free for everyone.***
- Beware of unsolicited contact. If you get a call or an email from a "government official," it's a fake. The health department will not contact you to sign you up to get the vaccine.
- Never give out any financial or medical information over the phone or online unless you are 100% sure of the recipient.

Here are [five key points](#) that state and federal officials want the public to understand.

1. Initially, [the vaccine will be available in limited quantities](#), so people should turn to trusted resources — their doctor or local health department — for guidance.
2. People should not buy any kind of coronavirus vaccine or treatment on the internet or from an online pharmacy.
3. Doses of vaccine that were purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be provided to patients at no cost. Providers, though, may charge an administration fee and have that fee reimbursed by private and public insurance companies. There's also a means of reimbursement for uninsured patients.
4. Consumers should not respond to any solicitations about the vaccine. "Fraudsters are using telemarketing calls, text messages, social media platforms and door-to-door visits to perpetrate COVID-19-related scams," HHS officials said in the Dec. 3 fraud advisory.
5. People should not give cash or any other form of payment to [suspicious callers](#), nor should they divulge personal, medical or financial information, which criminals can use to fraudulently bill federal health care programs and to commit medical identity theft.

Management will continue to monitor city/state/federal and non-profit organizations for new guidelines on this matter and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

Be well and stay safe.