

# WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 SCAMS



*During this unprecedented crisis, remain vigilant to protect your health and financial well-being.*

## ABOUT GEORGIA WATCH

### OUR VISION

Equity and justice for all Georgia consumers.

### OUR MISSION

To protect and inform consumers so all Georgians prosper and communities thrive.

### HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Reach out to our hotline if you suspect you've experienced a scam, or have any questions about healthcare access, energy bills, or other issues.

**(866) 339-2824**

## PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

- **Price hikes:** Report sudden price hikes for sanitizing products and essential goods to the Georgia Department of Law Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-869-1123, or file a complaint online at [www.consumer.ga.gov](http://www.consumer.ga.gov).
- **Donations:** Do your research, and don't let anyone rush you into making a donation to a charity or organization that claims to be working on a cure or providing assistance. If someone wants a donation in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.
- **Financial assistance:** If you are having difficulties due to the impact of COVID-19, take a look at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's financial resources if you're having trouble paying your bills or if you've experienced a loss of income: [www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus).

## AVOID HEALTH-RELATED SCAMS

- **Online scams:** Scammers pretending to be health organizations send out emails hoping you will click on them. These emails may contain malware. Do not open any emails from health organizations you do not recognize, and read names carefully as they may look like reputable organizations.
- **No "miracle cure":** Don't be tricked by fake promises of cures for the coronavirus. One does not exist. For updates about the virus and how to stay safe, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's coronavirus webpage: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/).

If you believe you may have been the victim of a scammer and would like some guidance, call our Consumer Hotline at (866) 33-WATCH or (866) 339-2824, or contact us online.

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