

Frauds & Scams against seniors happening during COVID19

LIST OF TOP 10 SCAMS CURRENTLY BEING USED

SCAMS INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT OR AUTHORITIES

- Emails, phone calls and text messages encouraging seniors to apply for COVID-related government benefits.
- A new CRA scam where seniors are threatened that their “provincial medical benefits” have run out (or will run out) and told they need to send money either to keep them or to buy private insurance.
- A phone call from provincial health authority (AHS) telling the senior that they have COVID 19 - or have been exposed to COVID 19 – and need to provide their credit card number to pay for testing or results.
- Canada Post/UPS delivery fraud – a phone call telling the senior that they have a package (usually an international package) where delivery was attempted but the senior is requested to call and pay duty or shipping costs first.

NEVER give credit card, banking information or password or Social Insurance Number over the phone. HANG UP immediately.

SCAMS INVOLVING YOUR BANK OR INSURANCE COMPANY

- Fake “Financial Planners” phoning or emailing to tell seniors that they can help them get their investment portfolios back up because of COVID 19 losses.
- Fake emails or phone messages from the seniors’ bank asking for their SIN number and/or banking information so that they can set up direct deposit for government funds or other COVID benefits to be deposited into.

SCAMS INVOLVING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS OR COMMUNITY

- Be careful about visiting websites asking you to help purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for front line health care workers by donating and paying by credit card. Public health agencies are NOT asking the public to donate money for masks or any other PPE.
- Community helping scams where phone callers say they are trying to contact vulnerable or socially isolated seniors so they can “help them”. In some cases, the callers are predators who are trying to identify vulnerable seniors so they can get into their house, sell them things or steal their personal information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are legitimate organizations reaching out to vulnerable seniors during the COVID 19 crisis. To ensure you are speaking with a legitimate organization, ask them for their phone number and then call them back before providing any other information. NEVER give financial information over the phone.

- Romance scams through social media and on-line dating sites focused on finding seniors who may be feeling lonely and isolated because of COVID 19, and are spending more time socializing online.
- Beware of this version of the ‘Grandparent Scam’ –the “grandchild” calls to say they are stuck overseas or in another country and can’t come home because of

- COVID 19 restrictions. The “grandchild” asks for money to get a “special flight” to come home and asks the grandparent NOT to tell their mom or dad.

REPORTING SCAMS TO THE CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE

By Phone: 1-888-495-8501 (toll free)

Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:45 PM EST

Online: www.antifraudcentre.ca

information adapted from the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre – April 8, 2020

***Falls are the #1 cause of injury related hospitalizations for older adults.**

***In up to 50% of these fall related hospitalizations, discharge back home to live is not possible.**

***RNCare can complete a 240-point home safety assessment and report that includes recommendations for fall prevention, fraud protection and personal security education and resources for aging Canadians.**

To book an in-home assessment please email us at info@rncare.ca