



News from Livingston County, NY

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Livingston County Warns of COVID-19 Scams

Geneseo, NY, April 13, 2020 — Livingston County would like to notify residents of several COVID-19-related fraud alerts recently issued by federal and state departments.

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Scammers are offering fake COVID-19 tests to Medicare recipients in exchange for their personal information. They then use this personal information as part of a broader identity theft scam to drain the bank accounts of their victims.

- **Protect Yourself:**

- Beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for their Medicare or Medicaid numbers.
- Be suspicious of any unexpected calls or visitors offering COVID-19 tests or supplies. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media sites.
- A physician or other trusted healthcare provider should assess your condition and approve any requests for COVID-19 testing.

New York State Office of Aging: Scammers are offering grants for home repairs. Older adults are receiving postcards addressed to “resident” offering to help secure grants for home repairs.

- **Protect Yourself:**

- Do not answer your telephone if you do not recognize the caller or number.
- Never share personal information over the telephone, like your Medicare number, Social Security number or banking information.
- Never pay a fee to a company that says it will help you get a grant.
- Block or unfriend anyone who offers unsolicited grant information on social media. Even if you are “friends” with that person – they may have been hacked.
- Only use local contractors with validated references to do work in your home.

If you suspect fraud, complaints related to COVID-19 should be reported to:

- National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline: 866-720-5721 or disaster@leo.gov
- New York State Attorney General's Office: 800-771-7755
- AARP Fraud Watch Network: 877-908-3360
- Better Business Bureau: <https://www.bbb.org/consumer-complaints/file-a-complaint/get-started>

Additional information can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/stay-cyber-safe>.

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