



# Alberta Council on Aging

## COVID-19 Fraud and Scam Alert

### Protect yourself, beware of:

- **Unsolicited calls, emails and texts** giving medical advice or requesting urgent action or payment
  - If you didn't initiate contact, you don't know who you're communicating to
  - Never respond or click on suspicious links and attachments
  - Never give out your personal or financial details
- **Unauthorized or fraudulent charities** requesting money for victims, products or research
  - Don't be pressured into making a donation
  - Verify that a charity is registered
- **High-priced or low-quality products** purchased in bulk by consumers and resold for profit
  - These items may be expired and/or dangerous to your health
- **Questionable offers**, such as:
  - miracle cures
  - herbal remedies
  - vaccinations
  - faster testing
- **Fake and deceptive online ads**, including:
  - cleaning products
  - hand sanitizers
  - other items in high demand
- Anyone requesting payment or donation in the form of gift cards

### Reported scams

Criminals are posing as:

- Cleaning or heating companies
  - offering duct cleaning services or air filters to protect from COVID-19
- Public Health Agency of Canada
  - giving false results saying you have been tested positive for COVID-19
- Red Cross and other known charities
  - offering free medical products (e.g. masks) for a donation
- Door-to-door sales people
  - selling household decontamination services
  - offering fast COVID-19 tests
- Selling fraudulent products that claim to treat or prevent the disease
- Employment Insurance/Government of Canada
- Offering cash as part of the federal government's Emergency Response Benefit
  - If you didn't apply, then you will not be receiving this
- Grandchildren
  - caller says they need money from grandparent for medication or other forms of support because they have contracted COVID-19

Pay attention. Say no or I will call you back. Check in with someone you trust.