What Scammers Are Doing:

- Setting up fake websites to sell unproven treatments, or to offer cleaning and disinfecting products at exorbitant prices.
- Calling, texting, sending emails, and creating social media posts to entice you to buy a bogus testing kit or fake product, or to offer vaccinations.
- Sending fake information in messages that appear to be from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other experts claiming to have new info about the virus.
- Creating fake “investment opportunities” claiming that products or services of publicly-traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure coronavirus - and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result.
- Setting up fake efforts to take donations for victims in hard-hit areas.

What You Can Do:

- Be alert!
  - According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are currently NO drugs or vaccines approved to treat or prevent coronavirus.
  - Ignore online offers, calls, emails, texts and social media posts telling you otherwise.
- Be smart buying online
  - Shop from trusted places and sellers and compare prices before buying.
  - The FDA advises that testing for the coronavirus is only conducted in verified state and local public laboratories.
  - Ignore online offers for virus test kits.
- Visit reliable resources for the most up-to-date information
  - Boulder County Public Health: [www.boco.org/COVID-19](http://www.boco.org/COVID-19)
  - Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/)
  - CDC: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- Don’t click on links in unsolicited emails or from sources you don’t know
  - These links can lead you to a fake website or can download malicious software (malware) or a virus onto your computer.
  - Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.
- Do your homework before donating or investing
  - Check that a charity is legitimate at the Colorado Secretary of State’s Office or at [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org).
  - If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don’t do it.
  - Be alert to virus-related investment schemes, and research new investments carefully.

Call the Community Protection Division with Questions, or to Report a Scam
303-441-3700

Michael Dougherty, District Attorney