



COVID-19 scams are targeting Medicare beneficiaries

COVID-19 is touching every community in one way or another. As the number of people impacted by the novel coronavirus grows, so do the number of scams associated with it. Because older adults are at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19, more scams are targeting this population.

There is currently no vaccine or FDA-approved treatments for the new coronavirus. COVID-19 tests are currently only offered to patients through official medical providers. No one should be receiving unsolicited requests for personal information regarding COVID-19 treatment or testing, and legitimate tests are not being advertised through social media, door-to-door visits or by telephone. Officials may contact individuals if there is a possibility that they have been exposed to the virus, but they will not need any insurance or financial information.

The Senior Medicare Patrol recommends that Medicare beneficiaries:

- Contact their doctor if they are experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19.
- Do not give out their Medicare number, Social Security number or personal information in response to unsolicited calls, emails, social media contact or home visits.
- Be suspicious of social media posts or anyone going door-to-door offering free COVID-19 testing, supplies or treatments.
- Contact the local Senior Medicare Patrol to report scams by calling 877-808-2468 or visiting smpresource.org. Within the Denver metro area, contact the [DRCOG Senior Medicare Patrol program](#) at 303-480-6835.

DRCOG's Senior Medicare Patrol program

At a time of great uncertainty, confusion and concern, it is important that this information be shared with vulnerable populations to ensure the safety of their personal information. Please share these tips with anyone that may be at risk of fraud related to the current coronavirus pandemic.