



**Scams (part 2) issue—
Read on to learn more!**

Prevention Tips

Buying/donating online: Be a smart consumer!

- **Know who you're dealing with.** Contact the Better Business Bureau at <https://www.bbb.org/> to make sure the business/charity is trustworthy.
- **Credit cards are the safest way to purchase or donate online** because charges can be disputed if they are false.
- **Guard your personal information.** Don't share it unless you initiate the call or contact.
- **Be cautious about unsolicited emails.** Do not open! Deleting them is usually the best approach.
- **Free regular credit report checks:** <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>
- **Resist pressure.** Legitimate charities are happy to give you time to decide.
- **Don't believe promises of easy money.** As the saying goes, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true."
- To **OPT OUT** of prescreened credit and insurance offers, call (888) 567-8688.

Common Covid-19 Scams

Beware of scammers trying to take advantage, even during the pandemic...

- ⇒ **Identity theft** - Don't post a photo of your vaccination card online! Scammers can see and steal your name, birthdate, and other personal information.
- ⇒ **COVID-19 testing** - Scammers are targeting Medicare beneficiaries by offering COVID-19 testing in an attempt to steal personal information.
- ⇒ **COVID-19 funeral assistance** - Scammers pretend to be from FEMA's *Covid-19 Funeral Assistance Program*. They call to offer program registration to family members of people who have died from Covid-19. Scammers can then steal the family members' social security numbers and other forms of identification.

To report Covid-19 scams, contact:

[National Center for Disaster Fraud](https://www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds#item-214623)
or call their hotline at 866-720-5721

For more information, go to:

<https://www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds#item-214623>

Protect Seniors From Online Scams

Did you know that 67% of U.S. seniors have been the victim or target of at least one online scam or hack? Here are 3 of the most common scams targeting older adults...

1. Grandparent scams—A con artist calls or emails and pretends to be calling on a relative's behalf. He or she describes a problem, such as a grandchild being arrested or a car accident, and asks for money but *tells the older adult not to tell anyone*.

***Do not respond—delete the email and report it to the Federal Trade Commission** <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>

2. Tech support scam—While online, a window that looks like a “computer hack” or “virus” warning pops up, using the name of a computer company (like Apple or Microsoft). It says you must download something to “fix” the issue, but it's really a virus or program created to steal personal info.

***Close the pop-up window—DO NOT OPEN IT AND DO NOT ENTER ANY BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION.**

3. Fake charities—After a natural disaster, a phony charity sends an email asking for a donation. They may pose as a lawful charity or make up their own identity. They play on the older adult's emotions and when the person “donates,” their bank account gets drained.

***Avoid any charity/fundraiser that refuses to provide detailed information about its identity, mission, costs, and how donations are used.**

To learn more, check out this informative fact sheet: <https://www.attinternetservice.com/resources/senior-citizens-guide/>

“S” is for Secure

HTTPS (https://) sites are “secure” sites for making transactions.

HTTP sites (notice there's **no “S”**) are less safe—so avoid these when prompted to enter personal details.

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day!

What will you do, today, to protect the older adults in your life?



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Building Strong Support for Older People

To Report Elder Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

Of a nursing home resident by a staff member:

Call State of Michigan LARA: **(800) 882-6006**

Of an adult living anywhere in the community or an adult in a nursing home, if the abuse is by anyone who is *not* a staff member:

Adult Protective Services (APS) Centralized Intake: (855) 444-3911

If you think a crime has occurred: Call your local police/sheriff department (and LARA)

For More Information...

Long Term Care Ombudsman: (517) 394-3027

Tri-County Office on Aging: (800) 405-9141

**High five to all of you who go above-and-beyond to serve—
Thank you for all you do to help protect your residents!**



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