

**SCAM
ALERT**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) & Scams

Unfortunately, in a time when we should be working together as a community, there are a number of new scams exploiting peoples fear over the Corona virus.

The scams take several forms which include (so far):

- Messages claiming to be from HMRC offering a tax refund due to changes in the law around Covid-19, recipients have to click a link which takes them to a fraudulent website .
- Messages claiming to be from the Center for Disease Control or from the World Health Organisation. These messages offer the recipient the chance to view a list of confirmed cases within their local area by clicking on a link and making a Bitcoin payment .
- Make sure you have an updated Asthma Action Plan to help you recognise and manage asthma symptoms when they come on.
- Emails claiming to be from a virologist sending an attached document with instructions on how to avoid the Coronavirus. The attachment is malicious .
- Fraudulent online sales of masks and hand sanitiser which never materialise. If an online shopping offer looks too good to be true, then it probably is.
- Thieves offering to make shopping trips for the elderly and then keeping the money, if you need assistance with shopping please speak to reception, do not give money to someone you do not know.

Please do not click on links or open attachments and take time to check that the email is from a legitimate source. Please be aware that fraudsters go to great lengths to make their communications with you look genuine.

As Covid-19 continues to spread, fraudsters are likely to continue using the anxiety it generates to trick people out of their personal data and hard-earned money. You can find more information about the scams listed above online. The BBC have summarised these scams in this article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51838468>.

More than ever, as a community you need to be aware of those in your locality who are elderly, live alone and who are vulnerable. **Please look after and support each other.**