

Covid-19 Vaccine SCAMS Targeting Seniors



BEWARE: Scammers are targeting seniors online offering to drive them to a Massachusetts vaccination site for a hefty payment. Seniors in Middlesex County could be at risk for COVID-19 related scams.

Only take a ride from someone you know and trust. If you need assistance, contact your local police department or Council on Aging.

The [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#) is sharing these tips to avoid vaccine related-scams:

- **Don't pay to sign up for the vaccine.** Anyone who asks for a payment to put you on a list, make an appointment for you, or reserve a spot in line is a scammer.
- **Ignore sales ads for the COVID-19 vaccine.** You can't buy it – anywhere, including online pharmacies. The vaccine is only available at federal- and state-approved locations, such as vaccination centers and pharmacies.
- **Watch for unexpected or unusual texts.** Don't click on links in text messages – especially messages you didn't expect. If your health care provider or pharmacist has used text messages to contact you in the past, you might get a text from them about the vaccine. If you get a text, call your health care provider or pharmacist directly to make sure they sent the text. Scammers are texting, too.
- **Don't open emails, attachments, or links** from people you don't know, or that come unexpectedly. You could download dangerous [malware](#) onto your computer or phone.
- **Don't share your personal, financial, or health information** with people you don't know. No one from a vaccine distribution site, health care provider's office, pharmacy, health insurance company or Medicare, will call, text, or email you asking for your Social Security, credit card, or bank account number to sign you up to get the vaccine.

In short, you can't pay to skip the line, reserve your spot, or join a critical trial. Be wary of any inbound calls or texts that ask for your Social Security number, financial details, or insurance information to reserve your spot.

Report COVID-19 vaccine scams to the FTC online, reportfraud.ftc.gov.

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