



Santa Cruz Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Cruz Police Warn the Public to be Aware of COVID-19 Scams

SANTA CRUZ – As the COVID-19 crisis continues, scammers are using this as an opportunity to take advantage of consumers. The Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) reminds you to be on the lookout for scammers and their schemes. Often scammers will try to impersonate a government agency or a business (such as a utility company or bank) and try to befriend you in hopes of getting you to pay them money, provide personal information, or access your home.

SCPD encourages you to stay informed by following these tips to protect yourself.

- Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling fake or unproven products to treat or prevent COVID-19. Beware of text messages and emails offering cures, information, or financial assistance related to COVID-19.
- Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers or answer any questions.
- Do NOT respond to texts, emails, or calls about checks from the government. No one will call or text you to verify the information before "releasing" funds; this is a scam.
- Watch out for phishing emails and text messages. Don't click on links from sources you don't know or emails/texts you aren't expecting to receive.

- Research before you donate. Don't let anyone rush you into a donation. Be cautious if you're feeling pressured to share information or make a payment immediately. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money. Get tips on giving wisely at [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity).

Santa Cruz Police Department shares COVID -19 Scam Alert public service announcement in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) at www.santacruzpolice.com, [SCPD YouTube](#), and <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus>

To report COVID-19 related scam in Santa Cruz County should contact the District Attorney's Office by calling (831)454-2050 or at <http://datinternet.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/ConsumerProtection.aspx> or the police department.

For more information on coronavirus related scams, you can visit [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus). You can report online and email scams to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357 or visit the FTC website at [consumer.ftc.gov](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov).

For current information on the City of Santa Cruz's response to COVID-19, visit cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus.