

Criminals are using the Covid-19 pandemic to scam the public – don't become a victim.

Law enforcement, government and private sectors partners are working together to encourage members of the public to be more vigilant against fraud, particularly about sharing their financial and personal information, as criminals seek to capitalise on the Covid-19 pandemic.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

Your bank or the police will **NEVER** ask you to transfer money or move it to a safe account.

Protect yourself

1. Watch out for scam messages: Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.
2. Shopping online: If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases. For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely>
3. Protect your devices from the latest threats: Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.



If you fall victim to any scam, report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

If you would like support as a result of becoming a victim of any crime, contact [Victim Support](#) on 01926 682 693.

Criminals target members of the public with NHS scam messages

Action Fraud have received 41 reports of a scam email purporting to be from HM Government asking for donations to the NHS during the COVID-19 outbreak.

This is a fake email and your money will only end up in the hands of a criminal.



TOP TIPS

- The NHS will **never** ask you to send money directly to a bank account. If you would like to donate to the NHS, you can do so via their official channels or your local NHS Trust.
- **Do not** click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.
- For the latest health information and advice about COVID-19 please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

UK medicines watchdog warns over unsafe coronavirus tests

The UK's medicines regulator has sounded the alarm over unsafe and unlicensed coronavirus tests, warning that unscrupulous suppliers are seeking to exploit people's desperation to be screened for the disease.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, which assesses medicines and medical devices, said it was working urgently to investigate a large number of potential scams and had already taken down several fraudulent websites.

The regulator is particularly worried about the marketing of self-testing kits for use at home, that would allow people to test for antibodies to see whether they have recovered from coronavirus. Several antibody tests are currently being validated by scientists in Oxford for accuracy, but none are approved for sale to the general public.

Fraudsters have sought to cash in on strong demand for Covid-19 testing kits and protective equipment, both of which are in short supply. An international investigation in March, co-ordinated by Interpol, identified 2,000 illicit online adverts relating to Covid-19 and more than 34,000 unlicensed and fake products. For medical devices to be sold for self-use, manufacturers must apply to the regulator for an additional level of approval.

Consumers may be motivated to buy these types of items because they are trying to regain control in an uncertain situation, however these are fraudulent.

For the latest health information and advice about COVID-19 please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



MONTHS TOP TIPS:

Looking after your health and wellbeing

To help yourself stay well while you're at home:

- stay in touch with family and friends over the phone or on social media
- try to keep yourself busy – you could try activities like cooking, reading, online learning and watching films
- do light exercise at home, or outside once a day

#StayHomeSaveLives 😊

Keep up to date with the latest updates on Community Safety in Warwickshire.

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Follow us on **Twitter**: [@SafeInWarks](https://twitter.com/SafeInWarks)



Visit our **site**: www.safeinwarwickshire.com

Warning about false Danske bank messages

City of London Police hasn't issued any alerts about fake messages from Danske Bank.

There is a rumour currently circulating via WhatsApp, SMS and social media which references the City of London Police Fraud team claims that Danske Bank customers are being targeted by a particular text message (smishing) scam. The content of this message is false. However, smishing scams are common.



Straight from the City of London Police fraud team - Extremely sophisticated scam going about this morning. Definitely Danske bank customers but possibly all banks. You get a message saying a payment hasn't been taken eg O2, EE, (etc) and to click here. DO NOT DO IT!! As soon as you touch it the money is gone. They already have all your details and it's the most advance scam the banks have ever seen. Pass this on to everyone. Please. The Police are being inundated with calls - thousands flying out of peoples accounts! Spread the word!

TOP TIPS

- Do not click on the links or attachments in any suspicious emails or texts, and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.
- It's important to remember that your bank would **never** ask you to move money out of your account or contact you out of the blue and ask for details such as your full banking password or PIN."
- Anyone who has divulged information after receiving this type of message should contact their Bank immediately.