

STAY SCAM AWARE

Trading Standards is warning us all to beware of scams following reports that fraudsters are sending fake texts offering a Covid-19 vaccine.

Among the difficulties Covid-19 has brought into our lives, it has given rise to an increase in scams as fraudsters try to exploit our uncertainty.

In one Covid-related scam, fraudsters are sending text messages containing a link to what police call an “extremely convincing” fake NHS website.

The scam message reads ‘we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine’ and prompts you to click on a link for further information or to ‘apply’ for the vaccine.

Once on the website you are asked to input your bank details to register for a vaccine. Remember, the NHS will never ask for payment details.

There are lots of other Covid-related scams too, such as:



Test and Trace scams – criminals contact potential victims claiming to be from the Test and Trace service but are really trying to get their personal information or trick them into handing over money.



Doorstep crime – there are many genuine groups assisting the most vulnerable, however, be alert for individuals who may take your money under the false pretence of helping.

Tips to help you stay safe

- If you get a text or email that asks you to click on a link or provide information such as your name or payment details, delete it.
- Never give out your bank/card details, PIN or passwords over the phone, online or on your doorstep.
- Don't ring the number a caller has given you to check it's genuine. Always look the number up for yourself.

What to do if you've been scammed

Report scams and get advice through Citizens Advice. Call **0808 223 1133** or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/what-to-do-if-youve-been-scammed/

Report the scam to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or at www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime

For more information visit www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/scams-rogue-traders-and-doorstep-crime/

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