

# Fight Fraud This March

## Fraud Prevention Month: COVID isn't helping



In Canada between March 6, 2020 and January 31, 2021, there have been **11,502 reports of COVID-19 fraud, 9,797 victims, and \$7 million lost to related scams.**

COVID-19 has given scammers new opportunities to take advantage of Canadians during this difficult and uncertain time. This data and the following suggestions are from the Government of Canada's website, [COVID-19: Frauds and Scams](#). Here are some of the COVID-19 related scams to keep watch for.

### Protect yourself. Be aware of...

- Companies selling fraudulent or counterfeit vaccines. Do not buy COVID-19 vaccines online or from unauthorized sources - only access safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines through clinics organized or endorsed by your local public health authority in collaboration with Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments.
- COVID-19 themed emails or texts that attempt to trick you. They may prompt you to install malicious COVID-19 apps, open malicious attachments, or reveal sensitive personal and financial details.
- Unsolicited calls selling home vaccination kits and COVID-19 tests. Only tests performed by official health care providers should be trusted to provide accurate results.
- Unsolicited calls, emails, and texts requesting urgent action or payment and/or offering medical advice, financial relief, or government assistance and compensation. Never respond to or click on suspicious links/attachments or give out your personal/financial details.
- Watch out for fraudsters posing as the Public Health Agency of Canada, other government departments or financial advisors. They may be giving false-positive test results for COVID-19, tricking you into confirming your health card and credit card numbers for a prescription or offering financial aid or loans to help cope with shut downs. Canada.ca has information on how to identify a Service Canada or Canada Revenue Agency fraudulent call.

### Avoid frauds and scams

Consumer Credit & Money Expert Laurie Campbell, a CanAge Fellow, [shares](#) her top tips about how to avoid the latest frauds & scams.

### Report an incident

For information about what to do if you're a victim of fraud click [here](#). To report an incident of fraud, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre toll-free at 1-888-495-8501 or through the [Fraud Reporting System](#).

