COVID-19 Scam Alerts

As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, scammers are stepping up to take advantage of those most vulnerable. Scams can come in the form of emails, phone calls, or text messages. Stay healthy, stay alert!

- **Price Gouging**
  Necessary items can become scarce, making supplies vulnerable to price gouging. Report any product that has an excessively high price tag to Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Section.

- **Spread of False Information**
  Information can be spread widely with the click of a button. Make sure to do your part and verify information using official sources before sharing.

- **Sale Offers for Rx**
  Be alert when you see sale offers for test kits, treatment drugs, or prevention drugs. Contact the Virginia Department of Health or your primary care physician prior to making any purchases.

- **Requests for Donations**
  COVID-19 has resulted in economic hardship across the country. As groups step up to help, find out more about the requesting organization and how those funds will be used. Also, if someone wants donations in cash, gift card, or wire transfer, don’t do it.

- **Requests for Personal Information**
  The IRS or US Treasury won’t ask you to verify banking information or “sign up” for your Coronavirus relief payment. Anyone calling, texting, or emailing to ask for personal information like your Social Security Number or bank account information is a scammer.

Check out official and current information about COVID-19:
- www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates
- www.211virginia.org/consumer/index.php
- www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus
- www.ftc.gov/coronavirus

To report scams or price gouging, reach out to the OAG Consumer Protection Section at 1-800-552-9963 or online at www.ag.virginia.gov/consumer-protection