



### **Economic Impact Payment Scams and other Fraudulent Schemes**

With Economic Impact Payments arriving soon, scammers are working hard to swindle vulnerable and unsuspecting victims. These criminals are using, texts, emails and social media to contact consumers and cheat them out of their payments. Most commonly, these swindlers claim to be IRS representatives requesting to verify your account information. Some promise you will get your payment faster if you give them your account information. The IRS will not contact you regarding your payment. Please visit the official IRS website for any information about receiving your payment by direct deposit, or by mail, or if you have any questions.

Consumers are also being baited with fake cures, non-existent charitable organizations, and even scammers posing as the World Health Organization representatives to get your money and your account information.

Always do your research, and If it looks fishy, trust your instincts - you are smart to be cautious. Before you click a link in an email, answer an unknown number on your phone, or donate to an unfamiliar charity, make sure you are dealing with a legitimate organization. Here are some ways the to protect yourself and your loved ones from being scammed.

- Don't respond to texts, email, or calls about checks from the government.
- Do not sign your check over to a caller or disclose your account information
- Be aware of fake checks arriving with instructions to call a number to verify your account number
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits.
- Hang up on robocalls.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC or WHO.
- Do your homework when it comes to charitable donations.

The FTC is working hard to combat these foes. If you think you are a victim of a scam or attempted fraud involving COVID-19 or have been scammed, please contact National Center For Disease Fraud Hotline (866) 720-5721

Also, check the IRS website for reporting instructions if you are a victim of Economic Impact Payment fraud.

And as your Credit Union, we are here for you as we navigate through this challenging time. Stay safe, stay well, and be vigilant.