

COVID19 Specific Frauds and Scams

Here is a list of the top 10 scams and frauds currently being used to prey on vulnerable seniors during the COVID19 crisis*

Government Focused

- Emails, phone calls and text messages encouraging seniors to apply for COVID-related government benefits.
- A version of the CRA scam where fraudsters threaten that your “provincial medical benefits” have run out (or are running out) and you need to send money either to reinstate them or to buy private medical insurance.
- A phone call from someone posing as a representative from the provincial or municipal health authority saying that you have been found to have COVID - or you have been found to have been exposed to COVID - and to give them your credit card to pay for testing or results.
- Canada Post / UPS - delivery frauds - a telephone call saying that you have an (often international) package which has been attempted to be delivered, but you need to call them to pay duty or shipping first.

Bank & Insurance Focused

- Fake “financial planners” calling seniors about opportunities to get their investment portfolios back up due to COVID19 losses.
- Fake bank messages asking for your SIN number and banking information so that they can set up a direct deposit for government funds due to COVID.



Elder Abuse Prevention (ON)
Stop Abuse - Restore Respect
Prévention de la maltraitance envers les aînés (ON)
Arrêtez les mauvais traitements - Restaurez le respect

CanAge 
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*Information adapted from Canadian Anti-fraud Centre. Released April 8, 2020.

Family, Friends & Community Focused

- Deceptive websites asking you to help purchase Personal Protective Equipment for front line health care providers by donating (paying by credit card).
- Community helping scams where callers say that they are trying to connect with Socially Isolated seniors so that they can “help them”. In some instances, these callers are predators who are actually trying to identify vulnerable seniors so that they can get into their house, sell them things, or steal their personal information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are legitimate organizations reaching out to vulnerable seniors during the COVID19 crisis. To ensure that you are speaking with a reputable organization, ask them for their phone number and then call them back before providing any personal information. And NEVER give out financial information.

- Romance Scams through social media and on-line dating sites focused on seniors who may be feeling lonely as a result of being isolated because of COVID, and are spending more time socializing online.
- A version of the Grandparent Scam - but this time the “grandchild” is stuck overseas and can’t get home because of COVID restrictions, but with enough money can get a “special flight” - and don’t tell mom or dad.



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For More Information



The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre collects information on fraud and identity theft.

For more information, visit <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/>

Reporting to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre



By phone: 1-888-495-8501 (toll free)

Calls are answered **Mon to Fri**, from **10am to 4:45pm** EST



Online: bit.ly/CanAge-report-fraud

Log into the tool using one of the following options:

- GC Key (user ID / password)
- Sign-In Partners (banking credentials)



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