



# COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

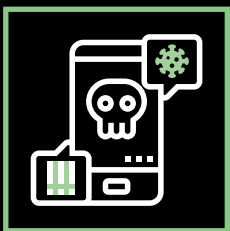


## PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ **NEVER** ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ **NEVER** ask for your bank details
- ⊗ **NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ **NEVER** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

## TOP 4 VACCINE SCAMS



### TEXT MESSAGES

People are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine, doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill and fraudsters collecting personal information to use again.



### PHONE CALLS

Victims receive a phone call from a fake caller offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details



### WEBSITES

Fake URL links to convincing-looking NHS vaccine booking forms, these look like official NHS forms and may contain some personal information already, at the end of the form it asks for their bank details.



### IN PERSON

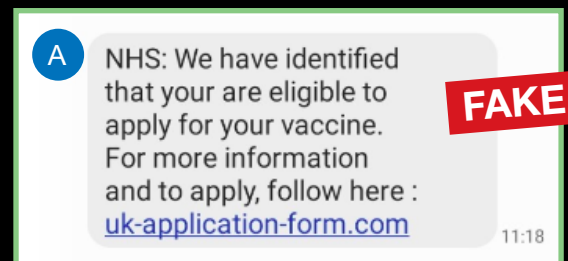
Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.



## LIKE OTHER SCAMS, THE SAME ADVICE APPLIES:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <b>Challenge</b> - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check <b>GOV.UK</b> to ensure it's genuine.        |
| 2 | Do <b>not respond</b> to text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.                  |
| 3 | Use <b>official</b> government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and service.                                       |
| 4 | <b>Challenge</b> unannounced callers to your home, NHS visits if necessary will be agreed with you directly or via carers, they will never turn up unannounced. |

## EXAMPLES OF SCAMS



## FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

### Public Sector Organisations:

The Cabinet Office has formed a COVID-19 Fraud Response Team to assist the government with its counter fraud response. Requests for assistance should be emailed to: **covid19-counter-fraud@cabinetoffice.gov.uk**

### Public:



National Cyber  
Security Centre

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to **report@phishing.gov.uk**. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number **7726** which is free of charge.



If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online; **actionfraud.police.uk** or via phone **0300 123 2040**.



If you have any information relating to vaccine fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online; **covidfraudhotline.org** or phone **0800 587 5030**.