



Government
Counter Fraud
Function

GOV.UK/coronavirus



Counter Fraud Authority

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.

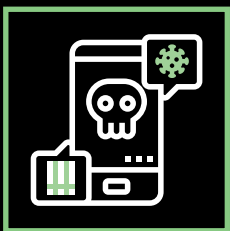


PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

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

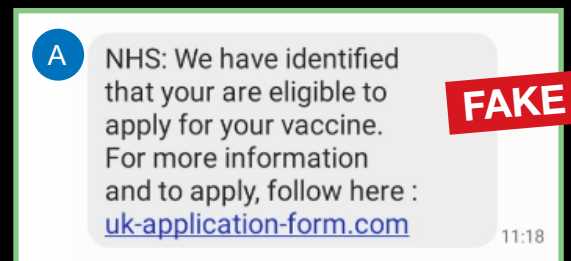
Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.



LIKE OTHER SCAMS, THE SAME ADVICE APPLIES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Challenge - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check GOV.UK to ensure it's genuine. |
| 2 | Do not respond to text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords. |
| 3 | Use official government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and service. |
| 4 | Challenge 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:



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**.