**COVID-19 SCAM RESOURCES**

We’re seeing an unprecedented increase in the number of scams circulating since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are links to safe and informative websites you can use to stay informed on the latest threats. Some have text and email alerts also!

**ID Theft Resource Center** is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of ID theft and educating others in avoiding all kinds of scams on their Alert page. They also published great tips on COVID-19 scammer tricks and how to identify them.

**Federal Trade Commission** has a great website with articles and resources that help identify a wide variety of scams, including a special COVID-19 section.

**Securities & Exchange Commission** Do you know what a “Pump & Dump Scam” is? It’s just one of many investment scams the SEC can warn you about, including COVID-19 treatment or prevention products, along with Ponzi, Pyramid, and Get Rich schemes.

**IRS** website has tips and info on many Corona Stimulus Scams, as well as IRS Scams like scammers who call with threats of arrest if fines aren’t paid immediately. They also have information on Economic Impact Payments and Get My Payment application assistance.

**AARP** has assembled a team of fraud fighters that have the real-world tips and tools to help protect you and your loved ones. From the Fraud Watch Network where you can get info on the latest scams and sign up for free alerts, to the Podcast “The Perfect Scam” this site is an excellent resource, especially for seniors.

**Social Security Administration** provides help with all kinds of Social Security COVID-19 Scams, as well as monitoring your SS information and ID Theft Prevention with a My Social Security account.

*Sources FTC, ID Resource, SEC, IRS,AARP, SSA

**TIGTA WARNS OF STIMULUS SCAMS**

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration or TIGTA, is warning Americans that scammers are actively targeting their Federal Stimulus payments. Because the payments are being sent via the IRS, TIGTA has launched a website with info on the latest stimulus scams, reporting portal, and the ability to sign up for email alerts. TIGTA says scammers are creating fraudulent web pages, social media ads, and phishing email, text messages, or other communications posing as the IRS asking for personal information. Some claim a payment is required to receive a stimulus check, while others ask victims to complete forms or surveys. These are all scams. Taxpayers should not follow any embedded links or open any attached files. In some cases, scammers may use these to install malware on your phone or computer. To avoid these scams TIGTA says the IRS will usually first contact people by mail, not by phone. They will not insist on any pre-payment using an iTunes card, gift card, prepaid debit card, money order, or wire transfer, in order to receive a payment. Finally the IRS will never request personal or financial information by e-mail, text, letter, or any social media.

*Sources FTC, ID Resource, SEC, IRS,AARP, SSA