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SCAM ALERT!



A Consumer Update from Mat Heck, Jr., Prosecuting Attorney



MAT HECK, Jr.
Montgomery County Prosecutor

CRIMINALS ARE TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CORONAVIRUS

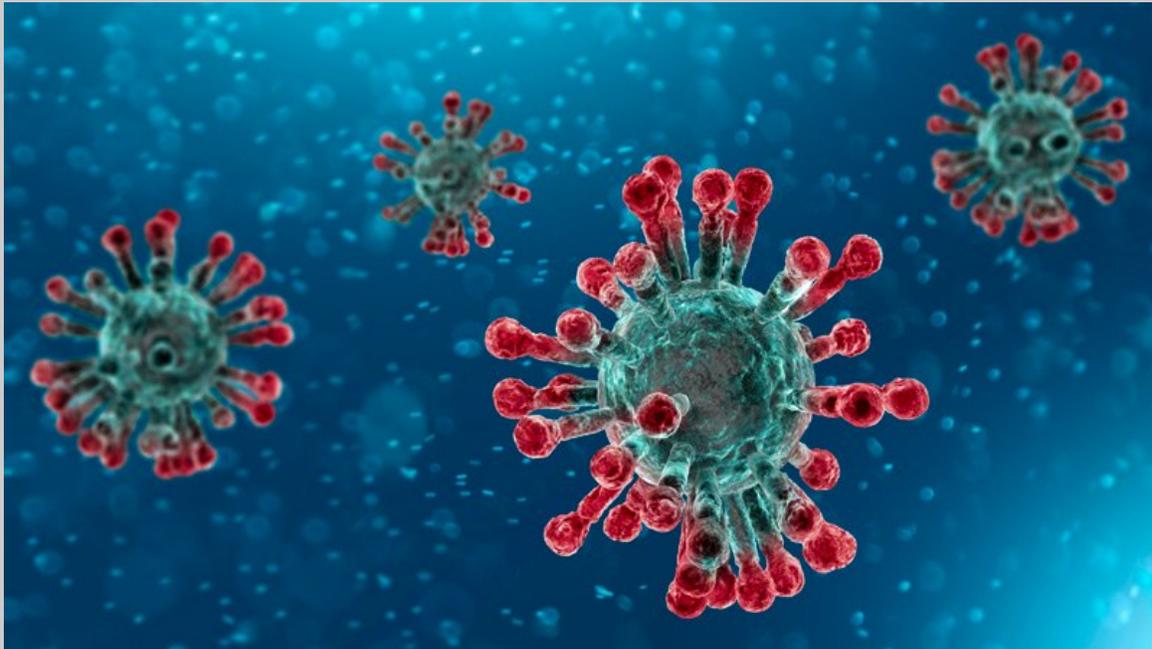
The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning that criminals are now trying to take advantage of the spread of the Coronavirus COVID-19 in order to steal money or information.

Scammers are pretending to be representatives from the WHO and are contacting unsuspecting individuals. These fraudsters are sending emails in an attempt to gain information or money using the fear of the Corona virus and its spread. They might also send text messages, fax messages, or even call you.

These emails might ask for your login information to "verify" any foreign travel. They might direct you to a website to obtain the latest safety

information and warnings, but in reality the website is fake and might infect your system with a computer virus. Other criminals are pretending to be from the WHO or the United Nations and are making requests for direct donations in order to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The WHO has firmly stated that it never does any of these things, and suggests concerned individuals visit their website (www.who.int) directly for the latest information about the Coronavirus.



HOW TO PREVENT BEING A VICTIM TO THESE SCAMS:

- Verify the sender by checking their email address;
- Only click on links in emails from senders you know and trust;
- Never provide any personal information to an unknown person, whether by email, text, phone, or fax.

Scammers and fraudsters understand the anxiety that many people have about the global spread of COVID-19. They seek to profit from any disaster or situation that gives them an opportunity. Being informed, aware, and careful will help prevent you from falling victim to these criminals.

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED:

Call the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Consumer Fraud Unit at 937-225-4747 and ask for a Fraud Investigator.

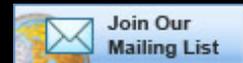
The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

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