



TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON WARNS TEXANS TO BE AWARE OF SCAMS AND PRICE GOUGING RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

DISASTER SCAMS

Scammers may call you or send emails with dangerous attachments or fraudulent website links to deceive you into revealing personal and sensitive information or ask you to donate to a fake charity.

Using the guide from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (www.us-cert.gov), here are some tips to protect yourself:

- 1) **BE CAUTIOUS** before clicking on any social media post or email with a “Coronavirus” or “COVID-19” subject line, attachment, or hyperlink.
- 2) Use trusted sources – such as legitimate, government websites – for up-to-date, fact-based information about COVID-19.
- 3) Do **NOT** reveal personal or financial information in email.
- 4) Verify a charity’s authenticity before making donations. You can look up legitimate charities at www.charitywatch.org or (773) 529-2300; or at www.guidestar.org or (800) 421-8656

PRICE GOUGING

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a statewide disaster declaration, and it is now illegal for a person or business to charge exorbitant, or very high prices, for necessities such as cleaning supplies, bath tissue, hand sanitizer, canned and frozen food items, and more during a statewide emergency. If you see the price of a product is a lot higher than usual, it is quite likely that price gouging is taking place, and you should file a complaint with our office concerning the incident.

REPORT

If you believe you have encountered a disaster scam or price gouging, please file a complaint online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection or call the Office of the Texas Attorney General’s toll-free complaint line at (800) 621-0508.

For more information on price gouging and disaster scams, visit our website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/disaster-and-emergency-scams/disaster-scams