

Beware of Scammers Abusing the COVID-19 Situation

The Nebraska Department of Insurance has received reports of individuals receiving scam marketing calls offering free COVID-19 testing. Scammers have attempted to use free testing as bait to obtain personal information such as bank account information, Medicare ID's, insurance identification numbers or other documents.

In other cases, the scammers may attempt to sign you up for services or medical supplies with providers with whom you do not have an existing relationship.

One anecdote reported scammers are going door-to-door claiming they are from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

A few of the scams to be wary of include:

- Advertisements for vaccinations or medications to treat the disease;
- Unexplained or unauthorized laboratory tests or prescriptions appearing on your Explanation of Benefits statement from your insurance company;
- Spear phishing emails referencing Coronavirus or COVID-19 which contain malware;
- Phone calls asking for your insurance company member ID and/or bank account information for free testing/services;
- Door-to-door solicitation for testing and prescribing.

It is always best if you initiate contact and deal with businesses, providers, insurance agents and insurance companies that you know and trust. Safeguarding your personal information is an important step in avoiding scams.

Report suspected insurance fraud to the Nebraska Department of Insurance, Fraud Prevention Division (IFPD) by emailing DOI.FraudPrevention@Nebraska.gov.