

**Criminals are
using the current
Coronavirus to try
and trick people
into handing
over money
and or personal
information**

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
FROM SCAMMERS BY SHARING
INFORMATION AND ADVICE**



ActionFraud
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GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE



COVID-19 SCAMS

Individuals may pose as door-to-door Covid-19 testers in order to gain access to your home. No one is conducting 'cold call' testing. Any available testing will be publicized by the NHS. Whilst more people are at home individuals strangers may knock on your door offering to go shopping or collect prescriptions if you give them cash. These individuals will take your money and **not return** with items. If you need items collecting and you don't have family or friends

Keep vigilant don't open the door to strangers, if you are struggling with collecting prescriptions/shopping/supplies make contact with your Local Council Community Hub. Support Hubs are being set up across Greater Manchester. You can find the details on Council websites or contact the main switchboard for information. Older people can also contact their local AGE UK advice service to gain some assistance. **AGE UK NATIONAL HELP LINE 0800 678 1602**

Be aware of online scams when ordering items that are in short supply in stores. If you are making any purchases of any item do so from trusted sites, ask a friend or family member for their opinion/advice before you place an order and where possible use a credit card to make the payment.

SCAM EMAILS AND TEXTS

There are a number of scam emails and text messages linked to the Coronavirus circulating at this time. Emails purporting to be from various organisations. Text messages advising people they have been out of their home amongst others.

Most will ask you to click on a link to gain either personal information such as bank details or load a virus onto your computer. Be extra vigilant don't click on links unless you can be sure they have originated from a trusted source important information will be conveyed by the NHS and other agencies through trusted channels.

HMRC SCAMS

If you receive an email or text again **DO NOT 'CLICK ON THE LINK'** do your own checks on the <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs>

'Examples of HMRC related phishing emails and bogus contact' can be found on the gov.uk website.

As Part of the NHS promise to battle the COV- 19virus , HMRC has issued a payment of £258 as a goodwill payment. Follow the link to apply hmrc-cov19.payment.estrodev.com



The text (see below) being received from UK_Gov with the link to the new rules in force *is* a genuine email. This email does not ask for any personal information or money and the link *has* been confirmed to be safe.

GOV.UK ALERT
CORONAVIRUS
New rules in force now: you must stay at home. More info and exemptions at gov.uk/coronavirus
Stay at home. Protect the NHS.
Save lives



Action Fraud put out regular updates on scams on their website www.actionfraud.police.uk under 'News and Alerts' and also on twitter @actionfrauduk

Keep yourself updated by searching 'emerging coronavirus related scams' online.

ONGOING SCAMS

There are also ongoing scams that it is important that you are aware of in order to keep yourself safe.

We have received an increase in Amazon phone scam reports since the beginning of the year and it is important that if you receive a call from someone purporting to be from Amazon that you **do not** give out any of your details, **don't** press one and if you do have an account with Amazon, put the phone down, ring Amazon directly or check your account online.

The most important tips to keep yourself safe from scams are:

- ✗ Don't click the link
- ✗ Never pay via Bitcoin or iTunes/Googleplay vouchers
- ✗ Don't reply to phishing emails
- ✗ Don't feel pressured into anything, always take 5 to stop and think before parting with your cash or personal details
- ✓ Keep all your personal information to yourself
- ✓ Make sure your passwords are strong
- ✓ Always make sure you can verify who is really calling

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