



U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Stopping the COVID Scams

Postal Inspector Elijah Hebert

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- 9+ years in law enforcement
- 5+ years with Inspection Service
- Currently assigned to the Transnational Fraud Team embedded at the Consumer Protection Branch at the Justice Department

U.S. Postal Inspection Service



- Oldest federal law enforcement agency
- Over 2,400 Inspectors, Postal Police Officers, and Professional, Technical and Administrative staff in 17 divisions throughout U.S.
- Enforce over 200 federal statutes related to crimes that involve the postal system, its employees, and its customers

How Do We Detect/Uncover COVID Scams?

Aggressive review of complaint databases

- FTC – Consumer Sentinel
- FBI – Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)
- USPIS – Fraud Complaint System
- Treasury Department – Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)
- Open source – Scambook



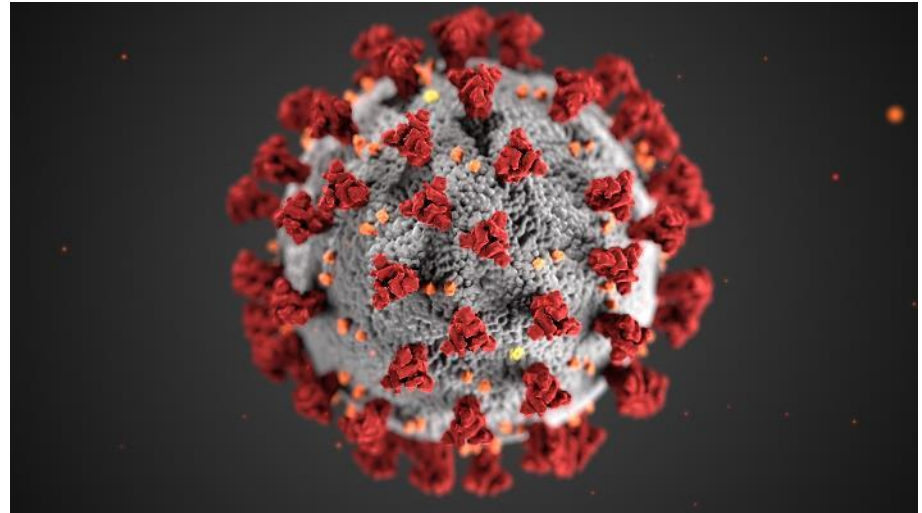
Types of COVID Scams?



- Fake test kits
- Fake cures/preventions
- Fake cleaners/disinfection products
- Failure to Deliver
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Cleaning/disinfection products
- Fraudulent investment opportunities
 - Invest in vaccine/prevention/cure
- Typical schemes with COVID pitch
 - Romance
 - Grandparents
 - Advanced fee

How Do We Respond to a COVID Scam?

- Coordinate – whole of government approach
 - Don't duplicate effort
- Stop the misrepresentation
 - Contact the owner operator
 - Take down request and request for documentation
- Notify hosting companies
- Notify financial institutions/ payment processor
 - Banks, peer-to-peer methods

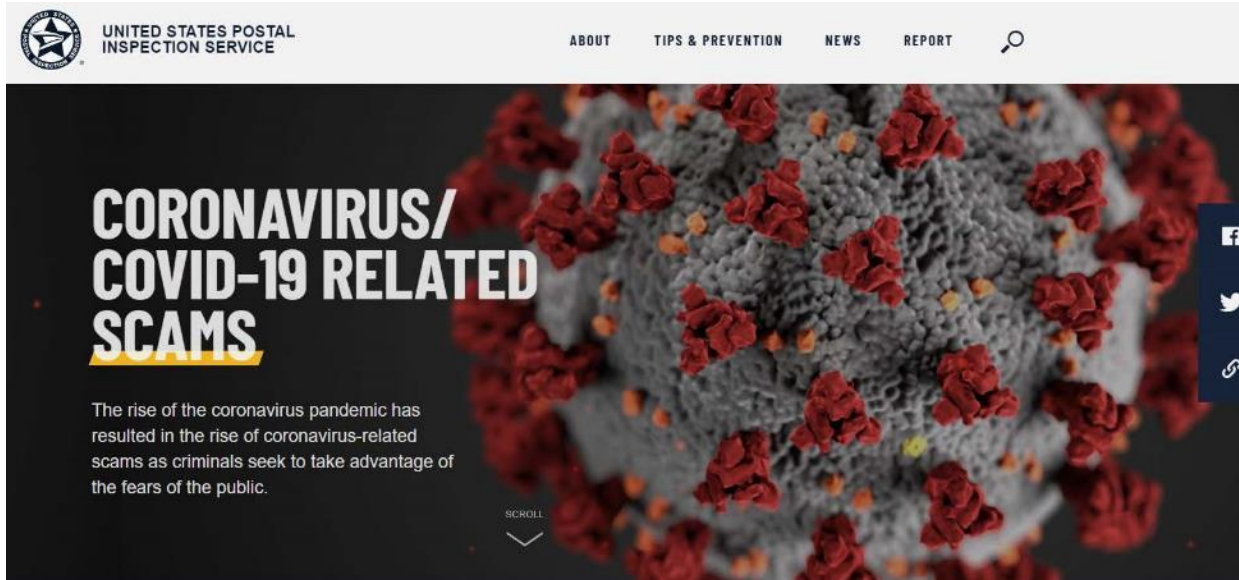


COVID Scams to Look Out For



- There are no cures
- Prevention requires following CDC guidelines to mask and maintain social distancing
- Failure to deliver – only purchase from known reliable retailers and ecommerce companies

Stay Informed!



- Website: www.USPIS.gov/coronavirus
- Facebook: @Postalinspectors
- Twitter: @USPISpressroom
- Instagram: @postalinspectors
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/c/USPISpressroom>



Thank You!