



## Cybercriminals Are in Love With COVID-19

Cybercriminals know that the best time to turn a phish into a catch is when life gets overwhelming.

They see COVID-19 as a gold mine. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of fraudulent emails and text messages spiked by more than 667%. And as long as COVID sticks around, scammers will try to use it to their advantage.

### What You Can Do

#### Stay Informed

You can stay current with the latest info on COVID-19 without getting scammed, you just need to be careful. Scammers have created hundreds of thousands of fake "COVID-19" phishing web sites. Make sure you visit only trusted websites such as the Center for Disease Control's official site (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>), or your local county or state health department web sites.

If you're unsure about a web site, you can always use this Google tool to see if it's safe:

<https://transparencyreport.google.com/safe-browsing/search>

#### Be A Little Skeptical

Cybercriminals try to grab our attention with COVID-19-related phishing emails on subjects like these:

- **Contact tracing.** "Someone who came in contact with you tested positive or has shown symptoms for COVID-19. Officials recommend you self-isolate and get tested. More at [www.cdc.com/testing](http://www.cdc.com/testing)."
- **Relief funds.** "The FCC Financial Care Center is offering you \$30,000 in COVID-19 relief. Claim at [www.fcc.com/relief](http://www.fcc.com/relief)."
- **Cures.** "Amazing COVID cure discovered. There's hope! Sign-up for the trial here: [www.vaccine.covid.co/signup](http://www.vaccine.covid.co/signup)."

Always be wary of emails and offers that are too good to be true.

### Stay Cybersafe

Look for the warning signs of someone trying to manipulate you. Dead giveaways include fake URLs, pressuring you to act immediately, urging you to click a hyperlink, or asking you to provide personal or financial information. Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.