

## How to Avoid Scams While Searching for a COVID-19 Vaccine

**BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT WEBSITES PROMISING TO HELP YOU GET A VACCINE.**

**SOURCE:** <https://www.today.com/health/how-avoid-scams-while-looking-covid-19-vaccine-t213005>

As seniors and many others search websites and other online tools for appointments and locations to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, some of these sites may not be legitimate leaving us all vulnerable to the scams.

Nenette Day, assistant special agent in charge with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that government agencies have already investigated more than 96,000 potentially malicious coronavirus vaccine websites.

## What You Should Know:

- ⇒ Fake or malicious coronavirus vaccine websites may ask for banking information or payment of some type telling users that they need to pay to make an appointment.
- ⇒ While there have been some cases of public agency representatives going door-to-door to give shots, this type of scenario would be well-established and reported by your local media. Call local authorities if someone shows up at your door to 'administer' a vaccine!

**Tips and Red Flags:** These are the red flags and specific details to watch out for when scheduling and tracking down vaccine appointments.

- There is no legitimate site that requires you to pay for a vaccine or requests payment to secure a spot in line for a vaccine.
- Never give a credit card number or bank account information in exchange for a vaccine appointment!
- You should never give your mother's maiden name when signing up for a vaccine.
- Never give your social security number as a security measure.
- Do not click on any links in an email, text message or social media popup. Instead go directly to the website—type in the correct address in the URL.
- Look for misspellings and typos.
- Check the web address for a dot with two letters at the end, it may be a fraudulent site—*example*: .me (domain for the country Montenegro). They sometimes state they are registering people for vaccination appointments in the United States...not true!
- Avoid sites that suggest you make an appointment for a medical exam.
- 

## How to Respond:

- Look for the warning signs.
- Report suspicious sites, calls, emails and texts to the AR SMP — 866-726-2916.

**REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP—866-726-2916**