



# SCAM ALERT

May 2020

## Coronavirus-Related Economic Impact Payment Scams

### Be Aware of Coronavirus-Related Economic Impact Payment Scams

With the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), many citizens will be eligible to receive an economic impact payment from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS is urging taxpayers to be cautious and keep an eye out for a potential rise in “phishing scams” surrounding these payments.

Scammers use the latest news events to snare victims. Be mindful of scammers posing as government entities (IRS) who contact you to ask for your personal information in order for you to receive your economic impact payment.

Take precautions to make sure your payment does not fall into the wrong hands!

#### Tips:

- Never give out any confidential/personal information that could be used to identify you (e.g., name, address, phone number, Social Security number, Medicare number, or bank account numbers). If you have been asked to provide personal information or payment to obtain government benefits, it may be a scam.
- Do not provide financial information to anyone claiming to be working for the IRS, or closely associated with the IRS, in order to receive your economic impact payment. The IRS will not contact you to ask for personal information.
- Do not open any emails claiming to be from the IRS or click on attachments or links.
- Be mindful that text messages, websites, and social media can also be used by criminals to commit fraud.
- Do not engage with potential scammers online or on the phone. Hang up or delete the online message.
- The Department of the Treasury has developed a web-based portal for individuals to check on the status of their relief benefits and provide their banking information to the IRS in order to receive payments via direct deposit at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

#### How to Respond:

If you receive unsolicited phone calls, emails, text messages or social media attempts to gather personal information that appears to be legitimate (from the IRS or the Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)) please forward it to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

To read more about protecting yourself from scams, read the Benefits.gov article on being savvy about phone scams at <https://www.benefits.gov/news/article/372>.

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



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