

## **Taxpayers should be aware of Coronavirus-related scams**

COVID Tax Tip 2020-42

April 16, 2020

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for IRS impersonation calls, texts and email phishing attempts about the coronavirus or COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments. These scams can lead to tax-related fraud and identity theft.

### **Here's what taxpayers should know:**

- The IRS will not call, email or text you to verify or request your financial, banking or personal information.
- Watch out for websites and social media attempts to request money or personal information. The official website is [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).
- Don't open surprise emails that look like they're coming from the IRS or click on attachments or links.
- Taxpayers should not provide personal or financial information or engage with potential scammers online or over the phone.
- Forward suspicious emails to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov), then delete.
- Go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) for the most up-to-date information.

### **Here's what people should know about the Economic Impact Payments:**

- The IRS will automatically deposit Economic Impact Payments into the bank account taxpayers provided on their 2019 or 2018 tax return for a direct deposit of their tax refund.
- Those without a direct deposit account on file may be able to provide their banking information online through a new secure tool, Get My Payment..
- Anyone who is eligible for an Economic Impact Payment and doesn't provide direct deposit information will receive a payment mailed to the last address the IRS has on file.
- The IRS does not charge a fee to issue the payment.

### **Scammers may:**

- Ask an individual to sign over their Economic Impact Payment check to them.
- Ask for verification of personal or banking information.
- Suggest that they can get someone tax refund or Economic Impact Payment faster by working on their behalf.
- Issue a bogus check, often in an odd amount, then tell a person to call a number or verify information online in order to cash it.

Official IRS information about the COVID-19 pandemic and Economic Impact Payments can be found on the [Coronavirus Tax Relief](#) page on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). The IRS encourages people to share this information with family and friends. Many people who normally don't normally file a tax return may not realize they're eligible for an Economic Impact Payment.

### **More information:**

[Report Phishing and Online Scams](#)

[Tax Scams](#)

[Subscribe to IRS Tax Tips](#)