Don’t get stung by COVID-19 vaccine scams

Cybercriminals are continually evolving their tactics - tailoring their scams and phishing attacks to current world events. The COVID-19 vaccination IS FREE, however scammers will seek to exploit South Australians during the rollout, so be on the lookout for fraudulent phone calls, messages and advertisements.

To learn how to PROTECT YOURSELF and KNOW THE SCAM visit www.police.sa.gov.au/scams

Report all scams to www.scamwatch.gov.au and if you have suffered a loss as a result of a scam, report it to www.cyber.gov.au/report
Scammers will send emails and SMS messages purporting to be from legitimate sources. These messages may contain links or attachments that will take the user to a fake website which asks for personal information and / or payment to ensure they receive a vaccine.

Warning signs:
- COVID-19 vaccine advertisements received via social media platforms, emails and telephone calls.
- Requests asking you to pay to put your name on a COVID-19 vaccine waiting list.
- Offers to undergo medical testing or procedures before obtaining a vaccine.
- Offers to sell or ship doses of a vaccine in exchange for payment of a deposit.
- Emails, telephone calls, or personal contact from someone asking you to participate in vaccine trials.

Protect yourself by:
- Check the spelling of web and email addresses to ensure they are legitimate.
- Do not respond to, or open emails, attachments, or links from unknown sources.
- Be aware that fraudulent emails requesting your personal information may appear to be legitimate, even though they are not.
- Never trust the caller ID as scammers can manipulate this to make phone calls and SMS messages to appear that they originate from legitimate sources, when they are not.
- If in doubt, hang up the phone and call the person or organisation back on a known, reputable number.

Legitimate organisations would never ask for your sensitive information via an email or SMS. Be aware of what you share – don’t give out personal details such as medical details, date of birth, credit card or bank details unless you have confirmed the source and the need for the information. Don’t be pressured into making a decision.

Visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au for up-to-date information about authorised vaccine distribution channels.

To learn how to PROTECT YOURSELF and KNOW THE SCAM visit www.police.sa.gov.au/scams

Report all scams to www.scamwatch.gov.au and if you have suffered a loss as a result of a scam, report it to www.cyber.gov.au/report