

## COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

⚠ BE AWARE: ⚠

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They're sending convincing looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

**PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS: The NHS will:**

- ✗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ✗ NEVER ask for your bank details
- ✗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ✗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

## SCAMS TO LOOK OUT FOR:



### Text Message

People are asked to press a number on their phone or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine, doing so can result in a charge being applied to their phone bill and fraudsters collecting personal information to use again. Text messages are also sent with fake urls to convincing looking websites.



### Phone Call

Victims receive a phone call from a fake caller offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.



### Email

Fake URL links are sent in emails and texts to very convincing looking NHS vaccine booking forms, these look like official NHS forms and may contain some personal information already, at the end of the form it asks for their bank details.



### In Person

Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.

## How to Avoid Being Scammed



**Challenge.**  
Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check GOV.UK to ensure it's genuine.

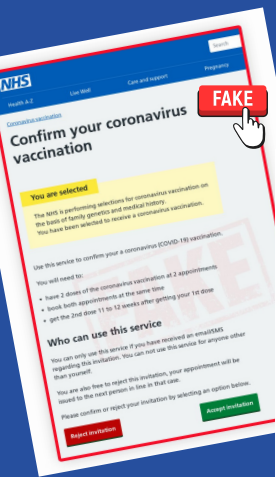
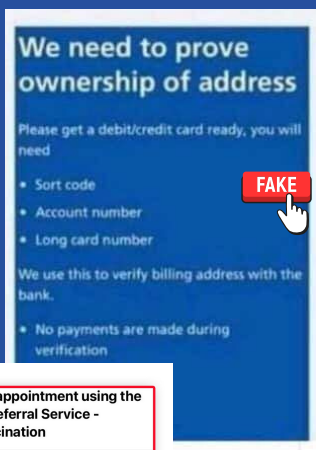
**Never click on any suspicious text or email link.** Do not engage with these messages.

If you are unsure its genuine then contact the 'source' directly via their own contact details on their website you search for. Not via a link given to you.

**Never give out any personal or financial information** from unsolicited contact. Never reveal passwords or parts of passwords.

## Scam Examples:

NHS: We have identified that your are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here : [uk-application-form.com](http://uk-application-form.com)



## Further Guidance and How to Report:



If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online; [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or via phone 0300 123 2040.



If you have any information relating to vaccine fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online; [covidfraudhotline.org](http://covidfraudhotline.org) or phone 0800 587 5030.



If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.



Fraud or fraudulent attempts can be reported to the PPP Trading Standards team at [tsadvice@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:tsadvice@westberks.gov.uk) or call 01635 503242.

