

FEBRUARY 2021

At Suncoast, we make it a priority to provide seniors and caregivers with the resources they need to stay safe. We provide guidance to help protect seniors from elder abuse, fraud and other scams. Use these helpful resources to stay informed and get help when it's needed. Suncoast is here for you!



COVID-19 SCAMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Phone and Text Message Scams

Be aware of phone scams, robocalls and text message scams related to the coronavirus. These scams may offer free home testing kits, promote bogus cures or prey on other virus-related fears.

Phishing Scams

Emails that appear to be from organizations such as the CDC or the World Health Organization. The scammers have crafted emails that appear to come from these sources, but they actually contain malicious phishing links or dangerous attachments.

Charity Scams

Emails that ask for charity donations for studies, doctors or victims that have been affected by the coronavirus. Scammers often create fake charity emails after global phenomenon occur, like pandemics or natural disasters.

Stimulus Check Scams

Emails requesting you to confirm any personal information in order to mail you a stimulus check for short-term financial relief. Government agencies are not sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information or requiring an upfront fee in order to send money.

IRS Impersonation Scam

Scammers are impersonating the IRS and calling people to tell them that they owe taxes. The scammers make threats that not paying will lead to arrest or other criminal action. They will ask for payment with a pre-paid debit card, money order, wire transfer, or gift card.

How to Protect Yourself from These Scams

- Do not click on links in texts or emails related to the virus, and do not give out personal information through text or over the phone
- Always go directly to government websites like **cdc.gov/coronavirus** and **fcc.gov/covid-scams** for the latest information about government programs, consumer warnings and safety tips
- Go directly to **irs.gov** for stimulus information; ignore emails, social media posts or websites that claim to offer grants or stimulus payments that are not from government agencies or legitimate organizations
- Remember, the IRS does not ask for payment over the phone or through text, email or social media; to see if you owe taxes, you can visit **irs.gov** or call the IRS directly at **1-800-829-1040**.



To learn more about these scams and more, go to suncoastcreditunion.com/blog.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

SENIORS IN SERVICE, TELEPALS PROGRAM

TelePals- TelePals keeps people socially connected through telephone reassurance. This program connects volunteers with home-bound seniors for regular calls to uplift each other's spirits and keep seniors socially connected. This service extends to Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco county seniors, at no charge.

Sign up to receive calls or to learn more about volunteering:

(813) 932-5228

<https://seniorsinservice.org/telepals/>



SAGES: PLAYS WITH PURPOSE

Sages is a nonprofit organization focused on using entertainment as an educational tool for raising awareness on issues faced by older adults. The plays address serious issues like fall prevention and scam prevention with just the right amount of humor, so it's engaging for all. Sages highlights senior living and how to empower yourself as a senior. Please use the link below to enjoy the recorded plays that are brought to you by Suncoast at no cost.

<https://sagestheater.org/suncoast-credit-union-pb>



MEALS ON WHEELS OF TAMPA

Get hot, nutritious meal delivered to your door by caring volunteers. For many of the homebound, a visit from a volunteer is the only human contact they will receive that day. Our recipients receive a hot meal and a visit designed to increase the intake of nutritious food, improve personal outlook and health, and decrease feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Apply for meals: CALL (813) 238-8410 OR visit

<https://mowtampa.org/meal-service/>

If not in Tampa:

Visit <https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/> to find a location near you



If you suspect fraud on your Suncoast account, call us at 1-800-999-5887 or visit a service center.



Tips for Protecting Yourself

- Be cautious with online dating, especially if the person is never able to meet you in real life
- If you are unsure about a caller, hang up and research the situation
- Don't let fear spark you into giving money away before you can confirm the truth in the situation
- If someone claims to be a family member, ask the person to answer a question that only your real family member would know
- Know that wire transfers, prepaid debit cards and other immediate forms of payments are often used in fear-based scams
- Never send money to someone you don't know, no matter what their excuse is
- Search for the person's photo online to see if it has been used for other dating profiles

It's easy to bank with Suncoast Credit Union! Visit suncoastcreditunion.com to learn how and to open your account online, or stop by one of our local branches.

800-999-5887