



## **Beware of coronavirus scams**

Scams are ways to con you out of your money. There are many different types and recently there's been a sharp rise in coronavirus-related scams. The following are some examples:

- sales of fake products such as face masks, supplements, anti-virus kits and sanitisers, which may be harmful or simply never arrive
- bogus healthcare workers who try to gain access to people's homes by claiming to offer home-testing for Covid-19
- people pretending to be from charities offering to do shopping and carry out cleansing tasks
- emails asking for donations to the NHS
- scammers trying to take advantage of stock market uncertainty by encouraging people to change their pension arrangements or investments.

### **How you can protect yourself and others**

It's easy to fall victim to a scam, particularly if we are caught unaware. Here are some tips to help you and others avoid being scammed:

- ask for ID from anyone who calls claiming to be from a charity. Check their credentials by calling the charity – don't use the number they give you but look up the charity online or in the phone book
- only speak to people you know and trust – don't open the door to anyone calling 'out of the blue'
- take your time – don't let anyone pressurise you into making a quick decision. It's okay to say no
- don't give out personal information, such as email logins, passwords, your bank details, health conditions or why you need support
- remember – if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. For advice about pensions or investments, contact the [Pensions Advisory Service](#) or the [Financial Conduct Authority](#).

Doorstep criminals may target people who are alone and self-isolating. If possible, keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours. You can download and share the advice from [Friends against scams](#) or a dementia-friendly postcard from the [Alzheimer's Society](#).

For more information about scams and how to protect yourself, visit our [scams webpages](#) or read our [Scamwise](#) guide.