

AVOIDING

Coronavirus Scams

Tips for Small Business from the FTC

ftc.gov/coronavirus

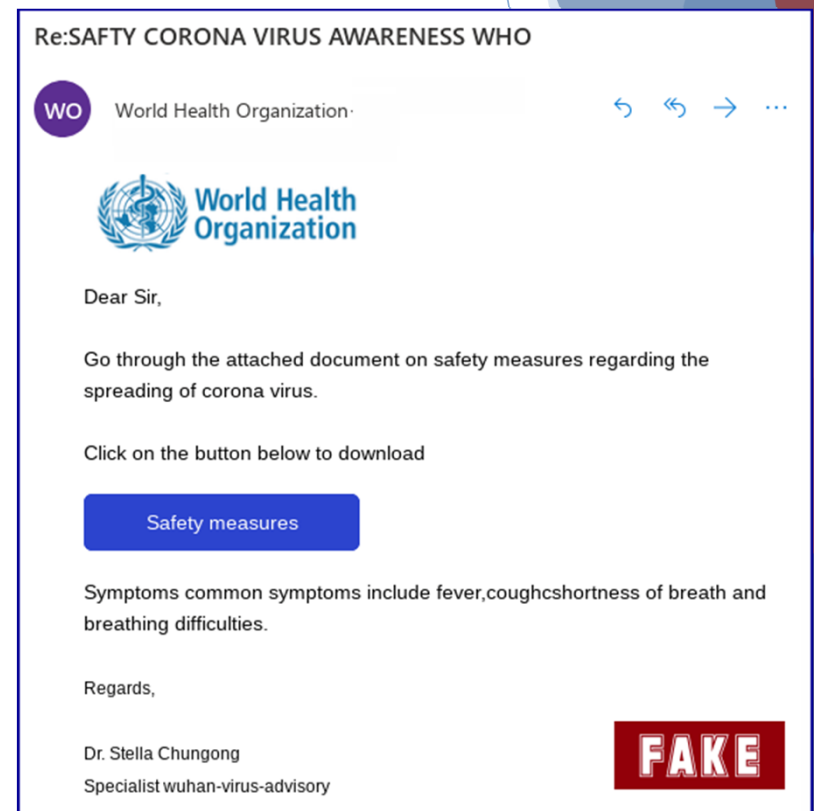
Source: Federal Trade Commission | [FTC.gov](https://ftc.gov)

Scammers follow the headlines

- ▶ As headlines change, so will the scams
- ▶ Scammers target small businesses, too
- ▶ Help the FTC and law enforcement partners know what you're seeing
- ▶ Report scams to ftc.gov/complaint

Email/text scams & malicious websites

- ▶ Phishing emails & texts
 - Get your money
 - Get your information
 - Links to malware sites
- ▶ Malicious websites
 - Lots of domains including “Coronavirus”
 - Stick with known, trusted sites



Government help for individuals

- ▶ The government will not ask you to pay up front to get any money
- ▶ The government won't call you out of the blue to ask for your financial or personal information
- ▶ Anyone who tells you they can get you money NOW is a scammer.



Government help for business

- ▶ Source for accurate information
 - sba.gov/coronavirus
- ▶ Scammers tactics:
 - Emails that look like they're from SBA or your bank
 - Calls impersonating the government
 - Promise fast track

Business email scams

- ▶ A scammer sets up an email that looks like it's from your company.
 - Warn your employees
 - Make sure everyone knows who to call to confirm a suspicious directive received by email
 - Keep the network security up to date and remind employees working remotely to do the same

I.T. scams

- ▶ Your employee gets a message from someone claiming to be from your IT department.
- ▶ The fraudster may know a lot about the business.
- ▶ Train your employees and remind them often to:
 - Never give out passwords. Stop and verify.
 - Don't be quick to click on links. Stop and verify.

Supply scams & fake invoices

Avoid fake websites

- ▶ Type in URLs you know to be genuine
- ▶ Check out suppliers with trusted industry colleagues

Don't pay fake invoices

- ▶ Ask employees to follow procedures and verify

The image shows a screenshot of a fake invoice. The invoice is divided into several sections. At the top, there is a table with columns for 'Item #', 'Description', 'Qty', 'Unit', and 'TOTAL PURCHASE'. Below this table, there is a section for 'NET AMOUNT DUE' which contains a table with columns for 'DATE', 'AMOUNT', and 'STATUS'. To the right of this table, there is a red circle highlighting the text 'Payment Due: \$150'. Below the 'NET AMOUNT DUE' section, there is a section for 'PAY TO THE ORDER OF' with a field for 'NAME' and a field for 'ADDRESS'. There is also a logo for 'Bank of America' and a checkbox for 'Send this invoice using email'. The overall layout is professional but contains several red flags, such as the highlighted payment amount and the lack of proper invoice details.

Item #	Description	Qty	Unit	TOTAL PURCHASE

NET AMOUNT DUE

DATE	AMOUNT	STATUS

Payment Due: \$150

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

NAME	ADDRESS

Bank of America

Send this invoice using email

Illegal robocalls

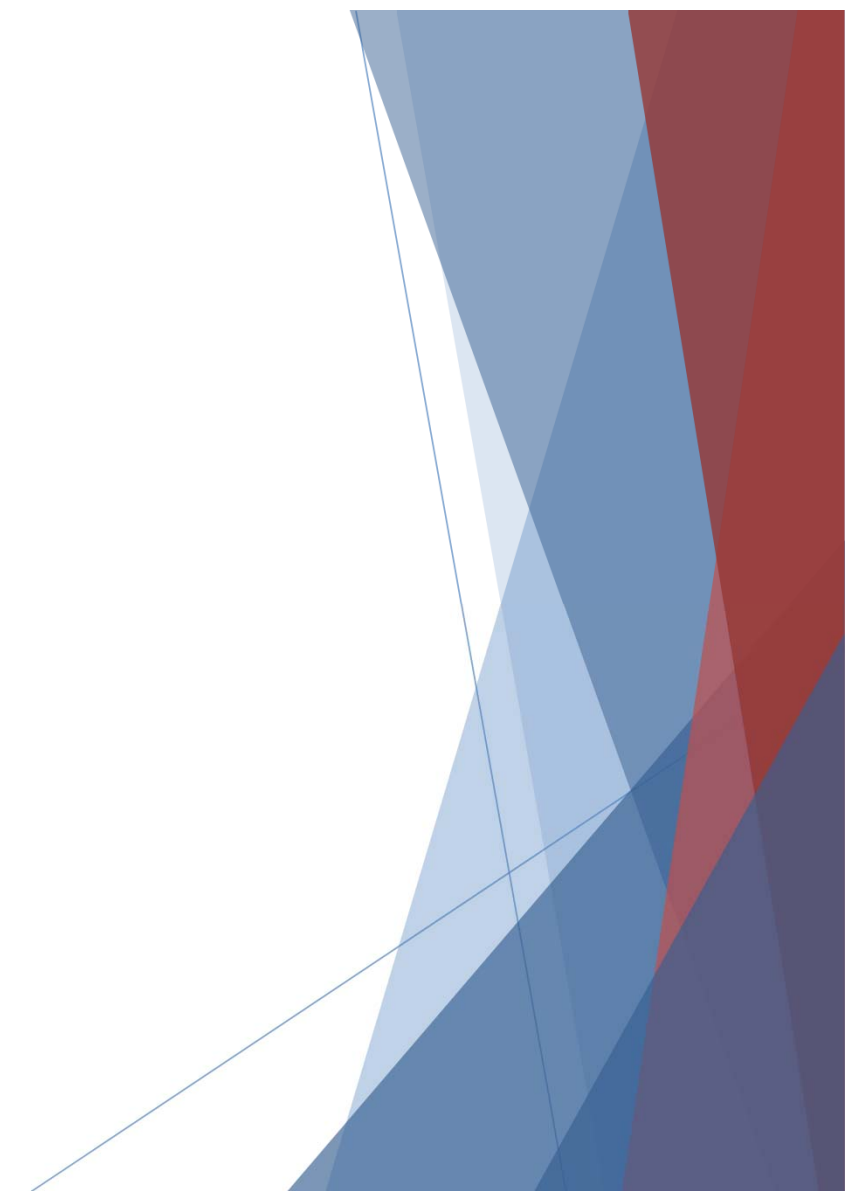
- ▶ Don't press any numbers
- ▶ Hang up
- ▶ Block the number
- ▶ Report to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

"Your business may be affected by the Coronavirus"



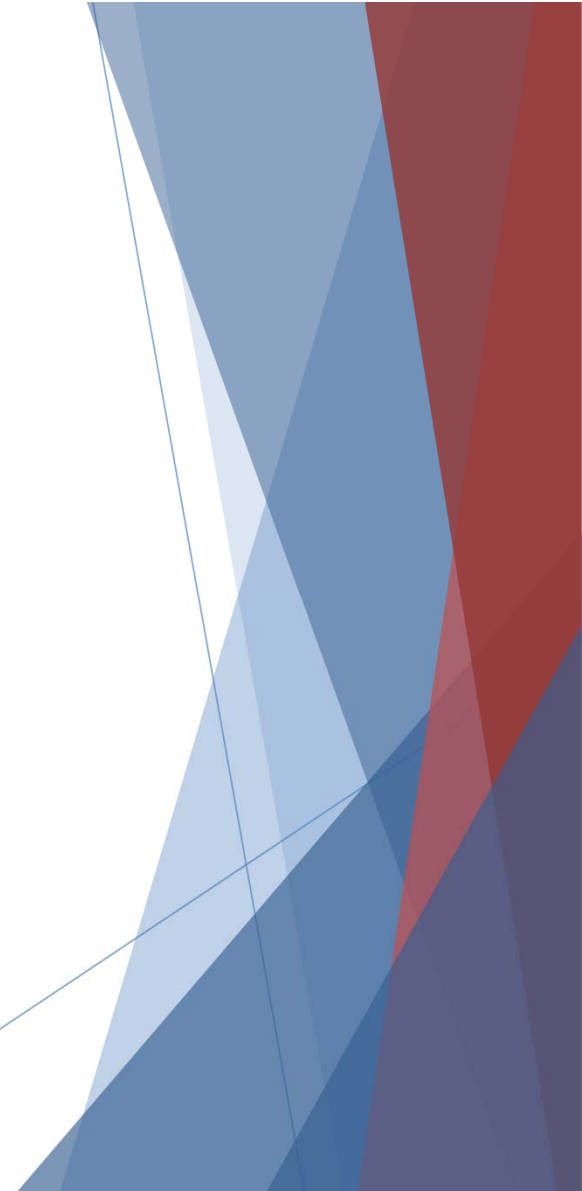
Data scams

- ▶ Keep security software up to date
- ▶ Secure your home network
- ▶ Keep an eye on your laptop
- ▶ Securely store sensitive files
- ▶ Shred sensitive documents
- ▶ Find more at www.csrc.nist.gov and www.ftc.gov/cybersecurity



Misinformation & rumors

- ▶ Ask yourself these 3 questions:
 1. Who is this message from?
 2. What do they want me to do?
 3. What is the evidence behind this message?
- ▶ usa.gov/coronavirus

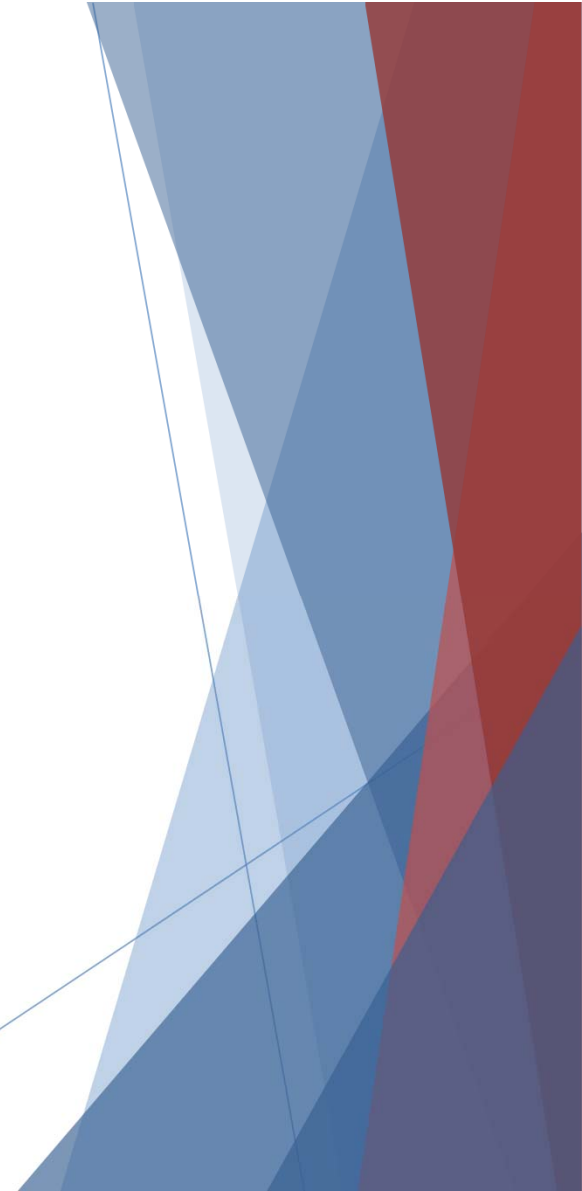


FTC law enforcement

- ▶ The FTC & FDA sent warning letters to makers of teas, essential oils, and colloidal silver
 - Said their products would help prevent coronavirus
 - BUT: No evidence to back up claims
- ▶ Companies included
 - Vital Silver
 - Aromatherapy Ltd
 - N-ergetics
 - GuruNanda, LLC
 - Vivify Holistic Clinic
 - Herbal Amy, LLC
 - The Jim Bakker Show

FTC law enforcement

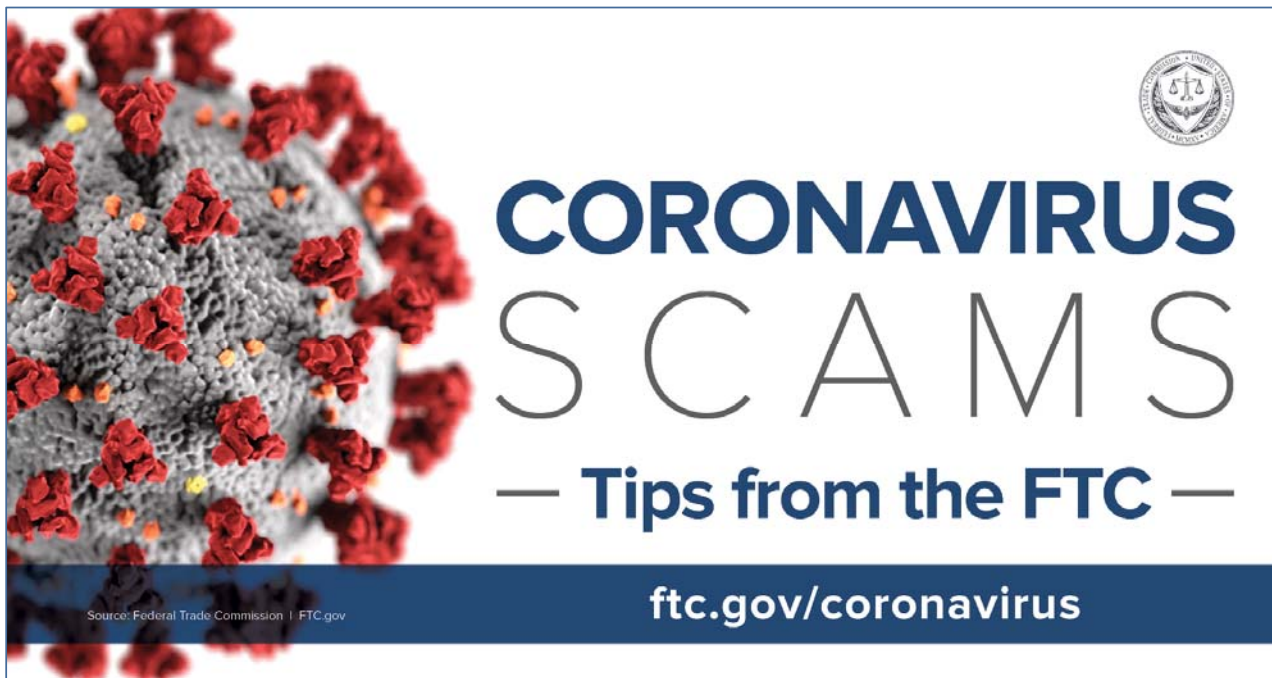
- ▶ The FTC sent warning letter to VoIP companies that:
 - transmit or carry illegal robocalls for telemarketers
 - Or give the phone numbers scammers use for people to call them back



Stay informed

- ▶ Get the FTC's Business Alerts: [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://www.ftc.gov/subscribe)
- ▶ Report scams or questionable claims: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)
- ▶ Know the latest on the Coronavirus
 - Health info: www.coronavirus.gov
 - COVID-19 Scams: [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus)
 - Federal gov't response: [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

Help us spread the word



CORONAVIRUS
SCAMS
— Tips from the **FTC** —

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Source: Federal Trade Commission | FTC.gov