

A detailed microscopic image of a coronavirus particle is shown on the left side of the slide. The particle is spherical with a grey, textured surface and numerous red, crown-like spikes protruding from it. Some small yellow and orange dots are visible on the surface.

Coronavirus Scams

Tips from the FTC

ftc.gov/coronavirus

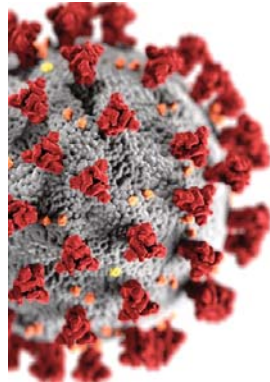
Source: Federal Trade Commission | FTC.gov

Scammers follow the headlines

- ▶ As headlines change, so will the scams
- ▶ Help the FTC and law enforcement partners know what you're seeing
 - ▶ Report scams to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

Treatments & cures

- ▶ Vaccine offers
- ▶ Test kit offers
- ▶ Miracle cures
- ▶ Medicare-related scams



Coronavirus cure?
Not so fast.

Learn the facts at
[ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus)

Source: Federal Trade Commission / FTC.gov

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
- ▶ Don't click links from sources you don't know



Robocalls

- ▶ Health-related calls
 - ▶ Cures! Prevention! Test kits! Telemedicine! Health insurance!
- ▶ Cleaning supplies
- ▶ Social Security Administration scams
- ▶ Mortgage relief scams
- ▶ Student loan debt relief scams
- ▶ More every day
- ▶ Report to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

Government stimulus checks

- ▶ The government will not ask you to pay up front to get any money
- ▶ The government will not ask for your SSN, bank account, or credit card number
- ▶ Anyone who tells you they can get you money NOW is a scammer.

Fake charities

- ▶ Often appear with crises
- ▶ Before you give: do your homework
- ▶ If you give, never pay by cash, gift card or money transfer.
- ▶ [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity)

Misinformation & rumors

Ask yourself these 3 questions:

- ▶ Who is this message from?
- ▶ What do they want me to do?
- ▶ What is the evidence behind this message?
- ▶ [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

The FTC's 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

Stay informed

- ▶ Get the FTC's Consumer 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)