

COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Whenever there is a health crisis, scammers will find ways to cheat people out of their money. During the coronavirus pandemic, they are taking advantage of fear, anxiety, and confusion about COVID-19. They sell things that don't work, charge money for things that are free, and steal personal information.



Scammers are targeting local residents with new, vaccine-related schemes. Beware!

If someone offers to sell you an appointment to be vaccinated, it's a scam.

- While vaccine supplies are limited, vaccine is being offered to groups of people at different times. Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) to see which group you are in, and when you will be offered vaccine.
- If you are in a group that is currently being offered vaccine, talk to your doctor or visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) to make an appointment. Individuals who do not have internet access or who need help can call 1-833-540-0473 between 8am-8:30pm for assistance making an appointment.
- **There is no "vaccine waiting list" and you cannot pay to get an appointment.**

If someone offers to sell you a vaccine, get you a special, low cost deal, or get you the vaccine under the table, it's a scam.

COVID-19 vaccine is given at no cost and *regardless of immigration status*.

- You will not be charged a fee or co-pay to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The doctor or pharmacy may charge a fee for giving the vaccine, but it should be paid by public and private insurance companies. People without health insurance can get COVID-19 vaccines for free.
- You will NOT be asked about your immigration status when you get a COVID vaccine. Your medical information is private. Your doctor is not allowed to share it with immigration officials.
- Visit the Los Angeles County [Office of Immigrant Affairs COVID-19 page](#) for updates on COVID-19 for immigrant residents.

If you receive an offer to buy a vaccine and have it sent to you directly, it's a scam.

- There are no "secret" sources of a vaccine that can be purchased. If anything is sent, it will not be an authentic.

Scammers are everywhere.

Scammers work online, on social media, or on the street. They may call, text, message, or email you. They may even approach you on the street or knock on your door offering a vaccine or an appointment to get vaccinated.

Look out for these RED FLAGS or warning signs that something might be a scam.

- You are contacted and asked to respond straight away with your personal or financial information. This might be your Social Security, bank account or credit card number, Medi-Cal or Medicare details. NEVER share these or other personal information.
- You receive an offer to buy a vaccine, and have it mailed to you. There are no "secret" sources of a vaccine that can be purchased. If anything is sent, it will not be the real vaccine.
- You see ads for fake vaccines or "miracle cures" using vitamins or other dietary supplements. Scammers promote these even though they have not been proven to work. The FDA has issued warning letters to many companies for selling products that claim to prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19.

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If anyone that isn't well known in your community (like a doctor, a health care clinic, a pharmacy, a county health program) offers you a vaccine – think twice. Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) or check with your doctor.
Don't let the scammers win!

Get Help

- **Find a doctor:** call 2-1-1 the LA County information line or visit the [211LA website](https://www.211LA.org).
- **Find resources like food, medicines, and other essential supplies:** call 2-1-1 or visit the [211LA website](https://www.211LA.org), or the Public Health [resource webpage](#).
- **Report a possible COVID-19 scam and get help trying to get your money back:** contact the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA): [dcba.lacounty.gov](https://www.dcba.lacounty.gov) or 800-593-8222.
- **Report suspicious claims being made about vaccines, testing or treatment products:** report to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

Stay up to date – with trusted information

Beware of fake news and hoaxes as well as COVID-19 scams

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) and sign-up for the COVID-19 Vaccine Email Newsletter

COVID-19

- Visit ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus, sign up for press releases, or follow us @lapublichealth
- Visit the County's COVID-19 webpage covid19.lacounty.gov
- Check the CDC's website [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Scam Alerts

Stay up to date on the latest scams and precautions you and your family should take.

- Learn about recent scams from the Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs' [consumer alerts](#)
- Visit the Los Angeles County [Office of Immigrant Affairs COVID-19](#) webpage
- Sign up for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) [Fraud Alerts Watch](#)
- Sign up to receive the Federal Trade Commission's [consumer alerts](#)