



# **TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON WARNS TEXANS TO BE AWARE OF SCAMS AND PRICE GOUGING RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

## **DISASTER SCAMS**

Scammers may call you or send emails with dangerous attachments or fraudulent website links to deceive you into revealing personal and sensitive information or ask you to donate to a fake charity.

Using the guide from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ([www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov)), here are some tips to protect yourself:

- 1) **BE CAUTIOUS** before clicking on any social media post or email with a “Coronavirus” or “COVID-19” subject line, attachment, or hyperlink.
- 2) Use trusted sources – such as legitimate, government websites – for up-to-date, fact-based information about COVID-19.
- 3) Do **NOT** reveal personal or financial information in email.
- 4) Verify a charity’s authenticity before making donations. You can look up legitimate charities at [www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org) or (773) 529-2300; or at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) or (800) 421-8656

## **PRICE GOUGING**

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a statewide disaster declaration, and it is now illegal for a person or business to charge exorbitant, or very high prices, for necessities such as cleaning supplies, bath tissue, hand sanitizer, canned and frozen food items, and more during a statewide emergency. If you see the price of a product is a lot higher than usual, it is quite likely that price gouging is taking place, and you should file a complaint with our office concerning the incident.

## **REPORT**

If you believe you have encountered a disaster scam or price gouging, please file a complaint online at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection) or call the Office of the Texas Attorney General’s toll-free complaint line at (800) 621-0508.

For more information on price gouging and disaster scams, visit our website at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/disaster-and-emergency-scams/disaster-scams](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/disaster-and-emergency-scams/disaster-scams)