

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Threat Topic: COVID-19 Vaccination Scams

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, bad actors continue to utilize new methods to scam victims. This now includes COVID-19 scams specifically related to the vaccination process.

Scammers may claim they can add people to a waitlist in exchange for payment. These types of scams prey on individuals by claiming they can help you get a COVID-19 vaccine more quickly for a fee.

[Don't Fall for Scam Promising to Put You at the Front of the COVID-19 Vaccine Waitlist](#)

Scammers may impersonate government agency and insurance company representatives seeking personal information. Scammers have been known to use unsolicited emails or calls claiming to be a representative from the health department, a medical office, or an insurance company requesting personal identifiable information, such as a social security number, or banking information.

[COVID-19: Jacksonville Man Claims He Received COVID-19 Vaccine Scam Call](#)

Scammers may create fake webpages or platforms in an effort to collect personal information or payments from people who thought they were signing up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The process of signing up to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine may vary in different parts of the state; however, most requests will be done through the county health department, local government, or state government webpages. Scammers create websites fraudulently claiming to sign people up for a vaccine when in reality they are seeking to steal money or sensitive information. Residents will never have to pay a fee to reserve a vaccine appointment.

[Fraudulent Eventbrite Pages Arose Falsely Claiming to Distribute COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Scammers may create counterfeit advertisements claiming COVID-19 vaccines are available for purchase. Scammers may create advertisements on various platforms claiming that an unverified COVID-19 vaccine is available or that vaccines can be purchase online to be delivered to a resident's home. Residents should be wary of any emails, phone calls, or text messages from unknown entities or individuals which offer information about a COVID-19 vaccine. If you think something does not sound right, verify the information provided to you with your [county health department](#).

[Phishing Scams Use the Promise of COVID-19 Vaccines to Trick Individuals](#)



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Tips to Protect Yourself from COVID-19 Vaccination Scams:

- **What residents should know:**
 - Signing up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine is free. Authentic vaccine registration websites will never ask for a social security number, credit card, or banking information.
 - The federal government is providing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to people living in the U.S. However, some vaccination providers may bill an individual's insurance company, Medicaid, or Medicare for an administration fee. Individuals will not have to pay a copayment or deductible.
 - The state of Florida, including the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), its county health departments, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management will not call to initiate the process of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Residents will only get a call, email, or text after they have registered to receive a vaccine from a state-supported vaccination site.
 - Do not click on any links that seem questionable or are from unverified sources and beware of advertisements claiming you can purchase a COVID-19 vaccine to be sent to your home. Vaccines cannot and will not be mailed to residents.
- The FDOH provides updated information on their [COVID-19 webpage](#) about legitimate [COVID-19 vaccination sites](#) throughout the state. If you receive a call from the FDOH it is recommended that you ask follow-up questions and avoid giving out sensitive information.
- Residents can check with their county health department to inquire whether they are part of Florida's statewide preregistration system or have their own system for registering individuals for COVID-19 vaccine appointments. However, the statewide preregistration system is available to all residents, regardless of county. For counties that have opted out of the statewide system, the state of Florida works closely with those counties to ensure their existing registration systems can coordinate with the statewide one.
 - Eligible individuals can preregister for vaccine appointments and be notified when appointments are available in their area by visiting [MyVaccine.FL.gov](#).
 - Each county has a designated phone number that individuals can call and use to preregister if they do not have Internet access. A complete list of phone numbers by county is available on FDOH's [COVID-19 Vaccines in Florida webpage](#).
- If you believe you have been victimized by a COVID-19 vaccination scam, you can report it to the Florida Office of the Attorney General at 1-866-9NO-SCAM or [online](#) or your local law enforcement agency. For more information on other COVID-19 scams targeting consumers, please visit the [Florida Office of Attorney General webpage](#).
- COVID-19 robocall scams can be reported to the [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FTC). The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services also maintains a Do Not Call list for residents. To subscribe to this service or file a do not call complaint, call 1-800-HELP-FLA or complete the [online form](#).
- For general COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccine questions, the Florida COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 at 1-866-779-6121.
- For information on approved COVID-19 vaccines, visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#) or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#).

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