

# SMP SCAM WATCH: COVID-19 VACCINE

## Be on the lookout for COVID-19 scams:

- ☑ You *likely* will not need to pay anything out-of-pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- ☑ You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine early.
- ☑ No one from Medicare or the Health Department will contact you.
- ☑ Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus.
- ☑ No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer will call and ask for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or banking information to sign you up for a vaccine.



## Senior Medicare Patrol COVID-19 Vaccine Fraud Alert!

The arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine has been announced and unfortunately scammers will use this as an opportunity to take advantage of people eager to get the vaccine. We don't know what all these scam will look like (fraudsters are creative!) but it's important people are aware that scammers are eager to knock on your door, call your phones, send you emails and pretty much contact you any way possible.

**Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** will release specific information on known scams as they happen, but in the meantime remember these tips to help you avoid vaccine scams.

- You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.

- You cannot pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- No one from Medicare or the Health Department with contact you.
- No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer, like a private insurance company, will call you asking for your Social Security number, or your credit card or bank account information to sign you up to get the vaccine.
- Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. Check with your health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19-related treatment.
- If you get a call, text, email ... or even someone knocking on your door claiming they can get you early access to the vaccine ... **STOP!** That's a scam.
- Be wary of where you get your information on the vaccine. Avoid unsolicited communication. For reliable information:
  - ✓ You can check out the [State of Connecticut COVID-19 Response Website](#) or
  - ✓ You can read the latest [Press Release from Governor Lamont on how the Vaccine will be released](#)
  - ✓ Always check with your health care provider (doctors, etc.) when in doubt

## How Can Your Senior Medicare Patrol Help?



Your local **SMP** is ready to provide you with the information you need to **PROTECT** yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; **DETECT** potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and **REPORT** your concerns. **SMPs** and their trained team members help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud. Your **SMP** can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential Medicare fraud and abuse issues. It also

can provide information and educational presentations. For more information, contact **Senior Medicare Patrol WCAAA** (<http://wcaaa.org/programs/senior-medicare-patrol-smp>) at 1-800-994-9422 or 1-203-757-5449, ext. 127 or visit [portal.ct.gov/ads-smp](http://portal.ct.gov/ads-smp)