

## COVID CONTACT TRACER SCAMS

The world continues to struggle with the immediate and possible future effects of the Coronavirus. Businesses and individuals are adapting to their daily lives to conform to new requirements and processes imposed by, regulators, businesses and society. Businesses are adjusting their operations and individuals are adjusting when and how they shop, socialize, educate, worship, and work, just to name a few.

The truly unfortunate side to all the adjustments made by everyone, is the vulnerability in everything new. Fraudsters are taking advantage of those vulnerabilities, at every turn. Don't fall prey to scams. COVID19 has given rise to a more recent scam model. We've heard about 'contact tracing' for the purpose of keeping track of possible Covid related exposures. There's a Scam for that!

### **The Contact Tracer Scam**

Many states have hired armies of contact tracers to track the movements of individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) is warning of a new ruse in which scammers impersonate a contact tracer and reach out to people via phone call or text message. They'll ask for the victim's personal information, including their Social Security number, claiming they need this information for their work as a contact tracer. Of course, they'll use this information to pull off identity theft or hack the victim's accounts. The scammer will sometimes ask the victim to click on an embedded link, which will grant them access to the victim's phone.

### **Protect yourself:**

Contact tracers will always identify themselves and the department where they work. If a contact tracer reaches out to you, you can easily determine their authenticity by researching this information. The tracer will also have a basic understanding of COVID-19 and how it spreads. Most importantly, they have no need for your Social Security number nor will they ask you to share it.

As the country moves into a new period of healing and recovery, scammers are doing all they can to continue disrupting daily life. Stay aware and stay safe!

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