

ND SMP Scam of the Month - February 2022

Fraud COVID-19 Testing Concerns



Be careful! Scammers are selling fake and unauthorized at-home COVID19 test kits. With the high demand for COVID-19 tests, there are concerning reports of fraudulent at-home and professional testing activities. Before buying any kit online, make sure that the test is from the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**'s approved list of vendors.

Scammers are once again using the coronavirus pandemic to commit medical identity theft and benefit themselves. The personal information collected by these scammers can be used to fraudulently bill Medicare and other health insurance programs.

Tips to protect yourself and others:

- Only purchase FDA approved COVID-19 test kits from legitimate providers.
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media sites.
- If you go to a pop-up site or other testing facility, research the facility or testing site before you go.
- If you suspect COVID-19 health care fraud, contact the SMP program at 1-800-233-1737.

Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800S-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Senior Medicare Patrol Resource Center (2022, January). *SMP Consumer Fraud Alert*: Fake COVID-19 testing sites and at-home tests.

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580 For more information or to locate your SMP, visit https://ndcpd.org/smp/

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0021, from the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

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