



## ND SMP Scam of the Month – March 2021

### IRS Warn of Growing Wave of New Scams During Pandemic

There will always be fraudsters looking to find ways to take advantage of people during hard times, and the coronavirus pandemic is no exception. Fraudulent tax schemes cause harm to the Federal government and taxpayers who are victims. Taxpayers should be wary of these schemes.

It may be tempting to see a bigger refund or to find a way that you can get stimulus checks sooner, but these things are typically tied to a scam. Some other fake promises scammers are using to reel you in and steal your information include fake donation sites or emails stating that you can get on the front end of a COVID-19 vaccine. Nine out of 10 coronavirus domains are scams. They use codewords such as “coronavirus”, “COVID”, or ‘stimulus’ payments. Scammers are working hard to get information from taxpayers and use it for their scheme to take your money.

#### Tips to tell if you are talking to someone pretending to be from the IRS:

- The IRS will **NOT** send you a text or email about tax issues or stimulus checks.
- The IRS will **NOT** call in regards to the Economic Impact Payment.
- The IRS will **NOT** ask you for credit card information, Social Security numbers or any personal financial data.

If you think you have been scammed, act quickly. First file a police report and then complete form 14039, an identity theft affidavit, that can be found on IRS.gov. These steps will help the IRS work faster in assisting the victim. You can also call the Tax Administration hotline at 800-366-4484.

#### **COVID-19 Scams**

Scammers are calling beneficiaries and pretending to be Medicare representatives. The caller asks for the Medicare number and the enrollment dates on the card and tells the beneficiary that they need a new Medicare card because of COVID. **Medicare IS NOT issuing new cards because of the pandemic.** Medicare will never call you, **DO NOT** give out your Medicare number, Social Security number or any personal identifying information to callers.

**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](mailto: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 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Stallworth, S. (2021 March 2). IRS Special Agent warns against new wave of COVID-19 scam. WDAZ Fox News. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/irs-special-agent-warns-against-new-wave-of-covid-19-scams/ar-BB1diB88>

**North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580**

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit [www.ndcpd.org/smp](http://www.ndcpd.org/smp)

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