

COVID-19 & Investment Fraud

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 - Companies claiming to have products or services that will prevent, detect or cure COVID-19 infection
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Fraudsters and scammers have found ways to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic. The Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) reminds Canadians to be extremely cautious.

What does a COVID-19 scam look like?

- Coronavirus-related investment scams from **companies falsely claiming to have products or services that will prevent, detect or cure COVID-19 infection**. Although research is underway, there is no vaccine or any natural health product that is authorized to treat or protect against COVID-19. Be cautious of any claims that a company has a solution to help stop the coronavirus outbreak.
- Potentially fraudulent ads offering **opportunities to work from home as securities traders without any former experience or a license**. In Canada, anyone in the business of trading securities must be registered with their provincial or territorial securities regulator.

Report Suspicious Activity

If you believe that you or someone you know has been offered a fraudulent opportunity related to the coronavirus, please contact your provincial or territorial **securities regulator**.



Protect Yourself

There are some simple ways to do your research and protect yourself.

- The CSA [National Registration Search \(NRS\)](#) is an easy-to-use tool to check registration, categories of registration and any disciplinary information about registrants.
- You can make informed decisions by learning how to identify the [red flags of investment fraud](#) and using important sources of information such as the [CSA Disciplined List](#) and [Cease Trade Orders database](#).
- Check the news and search online to see if there are any news releases, investor alerts or other information about the company or person.
- Monitor for the red flags of fraud, which remain consistent regardless of the fraud or scam.
- Ask questions, get satisfactory answers and think critically before making financial or investment decisions.
- The CSA and its members regularly put out [investor alerts](#) informing the investing public of known scammers and fraudulent activities.
- Refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada for reliable information on COVID-19.

Stay Informed

The CSA and its members remain committed to protecting investors. We are closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and continue to publish information and alerts to help keep investors informed during these uncertain times.

Visit the CSA's [COVID-19 Information Hub](#) for further resources.

