

# COVID-19 & Investment Fraud

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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.

