SUFFOK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

COVID-19 Scam Alert

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our communities, many criminals are seizing upon people’s fear surrounding the health crisis and using it to scam victims out of their hard-earned money. The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office is aggressively investigating and prosecuting these offenders, but we need your help.

If you are a victim or attempted victim of any COVID-related scams, like the ones below, contact the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office’s COVID-19 Financial Crimes Strike Force:

631-853-4232 • InfoDA@suffolkcountyny.gov

Testing, Treatment & Medical Supplies Scams: Scammers are selling fake at-home test kits, cures, vaccines and other unproven treatments or fake medical supplies for COVID-19. Supplies may be counterfeit or non-existent and never delivered to the consumer.

Stimulus Check Scams: Fraudsters may call or send a text or email claiming to be from the government and requesting personal identifying information before the stimulus check can be released.

Charity Scams: Criminals are soliciting donations through the creation of fraudulent charities, then stealing funds meant for individuals, groups and areas affected by COVID-19.

Fraudulent Medical Billing: People are being contacted by phone and email by individuals pretending to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend or relative for COVID-19, and demanding payment for that treatment.

Phishing Schemes: Scammers pose as health authorities, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to send phishing emails designed to trick recipients into downloading malware or providing personal identifying and financial information.

Price Gouging: Unscrupulous sellers are marking up prices for goods and services necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of consumers, including hand sanitizers and other disinfecting products, toilet paper and basic food items.