



CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE BULLETIN

COVID-19 Phishing Text Message Alert

2021-07-19

FRAUD: RECOGNIZE, REJECT, REPORT

Unfortunately, scammers continue to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has received reports of phishing text message scams tied to COVID-19 vaccines. The text messages claim to be from the Government of Canada and will say that due to a recent vaccination, Canadians are eligible for a Vaccine Relief Fund. The message then tells you to claim your funds by clicking on a link.

Phishing messages will ask you to click on a link for various reasons. The goal is to steal your personal and/or financial information, which can be used for identity fraud.

Don't click the link and don't provide any personal information!

Warning Signs and How to Protect Yourself

- Beware of unsolicited text messages and emails from individuals or organizations asking you to click on a link or attachment
- Watch for spelling mistakes in unsolicited messages
- Verify the hyperlink behind the link's text or button by hovering over the text with your mouse
- Do not click on links or attachments in unsolicited messages; they can contain viruses or spyware
- The Government of Canada will never send funds by email or text message
- Learn [more tips and tricks for protecting yourself from fraud.](#)

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, please report it to your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's [online reporting system](#) or by phone toll-free at 1-888-495-8501.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Competition Bureau
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Bureau de la concurrence
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