ATTENTION: SCAM ALERT!!!

Please be on the lookout for potential scams profiting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These scams come in many different forms. There have been reports of free COVID-19 test kits for the Coronavirus that are sent to your home, which end up costing a fee. Also, there are websites like “CornavirusMedicalKit.com” which are offering site visitors a vaccine kit for the Coronavirus for a $4.95 shipping charge. Be aware that there are no current vaccines for the Coronavirus at this time.

There are also cleaning services stating that they can remove the virus by cleaning and sanitizing the air ducts in your home, so the air you breathe is bacteria free for an approximate $75 fee. You may also receive Robo-calls falsely warning residents that they may be infected with the Coronavirus. These scammers are posing as your local health department and wanting to obtain your personal information. Be aware that people in white lab coats are approaching homes, pretending to be from the state’s health department or with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These people are attempting to come into your home and rob you, sometimes by force. Always ask for credentials and identification before you let anyone in your home that you don’t know.

There are also many malicious websites, apps, and emails that appear to share Coronavirus updates and related information. Once these fake links/websites are accessed, the scammers can gain control of your computer, lock you out of it, and request money for you to gain access again. These fake links/websites can log your keystrokes and gain access to your personal information and financial data which could lead to identity theft. While this pandemic is upon us, please remember that there are fraudulent illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations that are seeking donations that do not go to the charity or cause that they are seeking the funds for. These are just a few of the scams that are out there. You must be vigilant and remember to never give out your personal information over the phone or in person to someone you don’t know. If you or anyone you know is contacted by these scammers, you may contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or email NCDF at disaster@leo.gov, or contact the King Police Department at 336-983-0886.