

## **COVID-19 FRAUD ALERT**

The Jamat is encouraged to be aware of potential attempts by malicious groups attempting to take advantage of those impacted by the current COVID-19 outbreak. These attempts have the potential to severely damage a victim's financial position with extremely limited chances of remedy.

Please immediately disregard all unsolicited communication attempts through phone, email or text, to obtain your detailed personal financial information, SIN number, credit card numbers, bank accounts or related information from anyone, including those posing as known entities such as a Government Agency the Ismaili Council for Canada or any Institutional Leadership.

Anyone looking for information about COVID-19 should only check legitimate sources, such as Government websites or the resource materials provided by the institutions on [iiCanada.org](http://iiCanada.org)

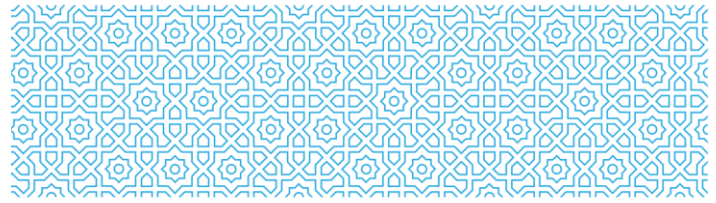
For further information and to report fraud, please visit the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#).

### **INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

**Phone:** 1-888-536-3599

**Email:** [access@iicanada.net](mailto:access@iicanada.net)





## PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Please disregard the following fraudulent attempts:

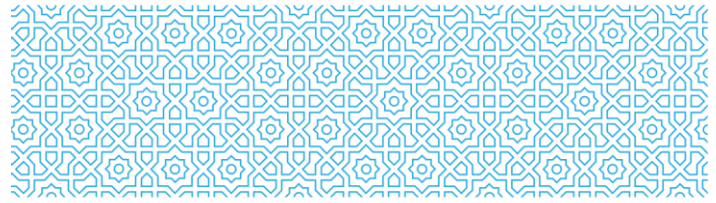
- Unsolicited calls, emails and texts giving medical advice or requesting urgent action or payment
  - If you didn't initiate contact, you don't know who you're communicating to
  - Never respond or click on suspicious links and attachments
  - Never give out your personal or financial details
- Unauthorized or fraudulent charities requesting money for victims, products or research
  - Don't be pressured into making a donation
  - [Verify that a charity is registered](#)
- High-priced or low-quality products purchased in bulk by consumers and resold for profit
  - These items may be expired and/or dangerous to your health
- Questionable offers, such as:
  - miracle cures
  - herbal remedies
  - vaccinations
  - faster testing
- Fake and deceptive online ads, including:
  - cleaning products
  - hand sanitizers
  - other items in high demand

## Reported Fraud

Malicious people are posing as:

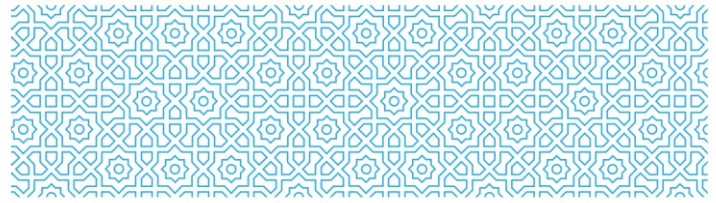
- Cleaning or heating companies
  - offering duct cleaning services or air filters to protect from COVID-19
- Local and provincial hydro/electrical power companies
  - threatening to disconnect your power for non-payment
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization
  - offering fake lists for sale of COVID-19 infected people in your neighbourhood





- Public Health Agency of Canada
  - giving false results saying you have been tested positive for COVID-19
  - tricking you into confirming your health card and credit card numbers for a prescription
- Red Cross and other known charities
  - offering free medical products (e.g. masks) for a donation
- Government departments
  - sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails
  - tricking you into opening malicious attachments
  - tricking you to reveal sensitive personal and financial details
- Financial advisors
  - pressuring people to invest in hot new stocks related to the disease
  - offering financial aid and/or loans to help you get through the shut downs
- Door-to-door sales people
  - selling household decontamination services
- Private companies
  - offering fast COVID-19 tests for sale
    - Only hospitals can perform the tests
    - No other tests are genuine or guaranteed to provide accurate results
  - selling fraudulent products that claim to treat or prevent the disease
    - Unapproved drugs threaten public health and violate federal laws



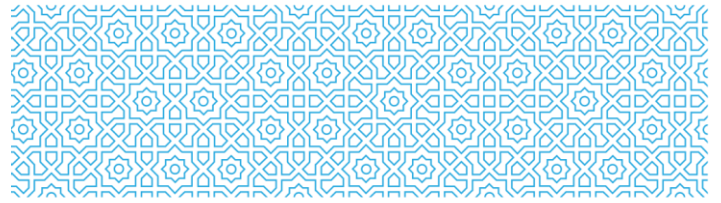


## Commonly Used Fraud Techniques

A list of some of the most commonly used fraud techniques related to coronavirus, compiled by RCMP, are:

FRAUD	FACT
Private companies offering fast COVID-19 tests for sale	Only hospitals can perform the test, no other tests are genuine or guaranteed to provide accurate results
Door-to-door solicitors offering fake decontamination services	Follow direction of the Provincial Health Authority to decontaminate your home and reduce your personal risk.
Fraudsters posing as police have been imposing on-the-spot fines to consumers wearing masks claiming that wearing a mask in public goes against a full-face veil law	It isn't illegal to wear a mask for health reasons
Fraudsters urge you to invest in hot new stocks related to the virus	You should only ever purchase stocks through reputable sources and banking institutions.
Fraudsters sending emails, texts or online campaigns that capitalize on the public's fears about Covid-19	Do not respond to unsolicited email, texts or phone calls. Don't click on any links or give any information about yourself. If you have any doubts about where the email came from, make sure to check the identity of the sender. if you receive a suspicious phone call, hang-up.
Fraudsters are creating fraudulent and deceptive online ads offering: cleaning products, hand sanitizers, other items in high demand	Buy from companies or individuals you know by reputation or from past experience. Before checking out, make sure you're still on a reputable website and have not been redirected to a third-party page. Beware of sellers from far away or that have limited or no reviews. Use a credit card when shopping online; many offer protection and may give you a refund. Regularly check your credit card statements for frequent or unknown charges.





**PLEASE NOTE**

The Aga Khan Economic Planning Board aims to capture information as it becomes available related to the economic impacts of COVID-19 to Small Business, Employees and to individuals and families. Best efforts are being taken to ensure timely and relevant information is made available on daily basis.

The information on this website is provided for general information purposes only and is not meant as legal or other professional advice. If you require specific legal advice on any issue, please consult a lawyer or an appropriate professional. The information contained in linked websites, is not guaranteed as to accuracy or timeliness and is provided for convenience only.

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