

Rumor: The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is going door to door offering at-home testing for COVID-19.

Fact: CDC and the Arkansas Department of Health confirmed that there is no home-testing for COVID-19. Law Enforcement also confirmed that these people were scammers who used this scenario to steal personal information as well as charging money for the fake test.

Rumor: Homeland Security is mobilizing the Arkansas National Guard (ARNG) to...

Fact: The ARNG cannot be mobilized by anyone other than the Governor.

Rumor: Arkansas is closing the state borders.

Fact: The Governor has repeatedly said he is not closing the borders.

Rumor: The Arkansas Department of Human Services (ADHS) is calling people and asking for personal information like Social Security Number or Medicaid ID.

Fact: Arkansans should only share information if the citizen has placed the call to the agency, not if they receive a call.

Rumor: FEMA is sending out \$1,000 checks through Social Media links that request some personal information.

Fact: FEMA is not issuing checks for COVID-19 economic relief. Please be careful when clicking on links these days.

Rumor: Governor Hutchinson is going to shut down the state for 72 hours.

Fact: The Governor has encouraged social distancing measures and enacted some restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19, but he is not shutting down the entire state.

Rumor: The Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADOC) is going to have a 'coronavirus kickout' and release inmates who are high-risk to gain a severe case of COVID-19.

Fact: The ADOC is making sure to limit and slow the spread of COVID-19 into the inmate population but they are not going to release any inmates.



Rumor: Taking a deep breath and holding it for 10 seconds without coughing or pain is a way to self-test if you have COVID-19.

Fact: Only a chemical test given by a qualified Health Care Professional can determine if you have COVID-19; there is no at home test.

Rumor: Drinking lots of fluids will wash the virus down the esophagus and into the stomach where the stomach acid will destroy the virus.

Fact: This isn't how viruses function and will have no effect other than making sure you're properly hydrated.

Rumor: Pulaski Co. Sherriff Office (Deputy Hicks) calling to get payment for warrants over the phone.

Fact: Even with the pandemic the Pulaski Co. Sherriff Office will never call regarding warrants or ask for money over the phone!

Rumor: Phone calls telling people that they need to register and pre-pay for a vaccine when it becomes available. Also requesting social security number, driver's license number and date of birth.

Fact: No legitimate agency will ask you to pre-register or pre-pay for a vaccine.

Alert: Scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts, and email addresses to sell medical supplies in high demand (like surgical masks) – but when you try to purchase the supplies they pocket the money.

Alert: Scammers or scammy companies use illegal robocalls to profit from Coronavirus-related fears – posing as the IRS or Medicare. Visit the Federal Trade Commission's website to hear scam calls: ftc.gov/coronavirus

Alert: Scammers are contacting people by phone and email, pretending to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend of family member for COVID-19 and demanding payment.

Alert: Scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas impacted by coronavirus.



Alert: Scammers are sending emails posing as health officials, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They want to trick you into downloading malware or providing personal identification and financial information.

Alert: Scammers are creating and controlling mobile apps used to track the spread of COVID-19. If used, these apps insert malware on your device that steals your personal and financial information.

Alert: Scammers will use this opportunity to prey on your vulnerability while you are contained and isolated to your home, developing a friendship or romantic relationship with you to gain your trust and obtain your personal and financial information.

Rumor: Water and Catfish in the Arkansas River systems are positive to COVID-19.
Fact: There is no evidence that COVID-19 has transferred to any other species, nor that it remains viable and can be transferred by water.

Alert: Some people are trying to use fake “Essential Infrastructure Sector Worker” identification cards (placards) issued to Dept of Homeland Security or other agencies – any of these that is not accompanied by a badge, credentials or a Federal Government PIV card is fake.

Alert: Scammers are posing as the IRS to call residents about the \$1200 federal stimulus. The IRS won’t call anyone regarding these payments.

Rumor: Authorities are seizing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or re-routing medical supplies when delivered to the US.
Fact: FEMA and Customs Border Patrol are working together to prevent fraud when PPE and medical supplies enter the United States from overseas. PPE being distributed internally within the United States is not being seized or re-routed by FEMA. To report hoarding or price gouging of PPE report it immediately to the National Center for Disaster Fraud calling 866-720-5721 or disaster@leo.gov.



Alert: Citizens have started a **petition** to allow hair salons and barber shops to open April 27th with some safety measures in place. The directive to close salons remains in place and has no scheduled end date.

Alert: Some manufacturers of CV19 tests are falsely claiming that their blood test is FDA approved to diagnose CV19. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) prohibits the use of tests that are not approved through the Emergency Use Authorization process by the FDA, or that have not received written approval by the Secretary of Health. This includes investigative procedures using quick diagnostic devices requiring a small blood sample (similar to a diabetic blood sugar test) outside of laboratories or settings otherwise certified by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. This includes roadside or drive thru testing.

