



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Consumer Information

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Want to get your Coronavirus relief check? Scammers do too.

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You've probably heard the news by now – the government is sending out relief checks as part of the federal response to the Coronavirus. Scammers heard the same thing, and they're hoping to cash in on yours.

The details of how this will all work are still coming together, but we do know a few things about how this will – and will not – work. For now, here are some things to know.

1. **You don't need to do anything.** As long as you filed taxes for 2018 and/or 2019, the federal government likely has the information it needs to send you your money. If you haven't filed taxes recently, you'll need to submit a simple tax return to get your check. (More on who's eligible [here](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know) (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>).
2. **Do not give anyone your personal information to “sign-up” for your relief check.** There is nothing to sign up for. Anyone calling to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security number, PayPal account, or bank information is a scammer, plain and simple. Also be on the lookout for email [phishing scams](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>), where scammers pretend to be from the government and ask for your information as part of the “sign-up” process for the checks.
3. **To set up direct deposit of your check, communicate only with the IRS at [irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) (<http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>).** And you only need to do this if you **didn't** give the IRS your bank information on your 2018 or 2019 return. In the coming weeks, the IRS will be setting up an online form available through [irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) (<http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>). But nowhere else, and never in response to an email, text, or call.
4. **No one has early access to this money. Anyone that claims to is a scammer.** The timeline for this process is not exact, but it looks like funds will start going out in the next few weeks. Scammers are using the lack of detail to try to trick people into giving their personal information and money.

To get official updates and more information, visit the IRS's page on [economic impact payments](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know) (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>). And if you come across a scammer trying to take your check, we want to hear about it. Report it at ftc.gov/complaint (<http://ftc.gov/complaint>).

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