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## **\* DON'T BE A VICTIM \***

With the challenging times, we all know that there are predators out there trying to take advantage of the situation. There are several different scams going on right now, with majority being fake sites selling PPE (personal protective equipment). There are also several online/email scams occurring to be aware of.

### **Fake PPE sites**

These scams are popping up on social media as well as fake websites that are advertising masks, gloves and hand sanitizer. Your credit card will be charged and you will never receive the product. Make sure you are purchasing from legitimate companies.

### **Student Loan Forgiveness Scam**

Fake companies are promising to reduce debt by lowering payments through enrollment in student loan forgiveness programs. They say you have to pay a small fee so they can negotiate with the lender on your behalf. This is a phishing scam to obtain personal information from the victim.

### **Malware scam**

Scams appear as documents with COVID-19 information. Once the site is opened or "information" is downloaded, the computer will be infected with information stealing Malware

### **Fake work email scams**

With more people working from home, scammers have come up with ways to steal work credentials and other important information. The victims first receive a personalized email that appears to originate from the organization's CEO. The email is convincing and may appear to be legitimate. The emails have PDF documents containing shortened links that invite recipients to read about their employer's COVID-19 employee benefits. The victim is prompted to sign in and credentials are then stolen.

### **Nigerian Prince Scams**

The scam impersonates the U.S. Department of Treasury. Those responsible for this email claim that the United Nations and the U.S. President have instructed them to "release all unclaimed ATM cards to the beneficiary to curtail the recession because of the outbreak of the Corona Virus." They then ask for a one-time \$50 fee. This scam comes in the form of an email.

Be aware there are also several types of scams going on right now using Robo calls and online threats. Please forward this message on to family members, especially your senior citizen relatives, as they are frequently targeted for these scams. If you have any questions or want to report a scam you can contact the Fair Haven Police Department.

