



CONSUMER TIPS DURING COVID-19 (Updated 4/21)

General Information:

- **Evictions** - the governor has issued an emergency order that prohibits Maryland courts from ordering the eviction of any tenant who can show that their failure to pay rent was the result of COVID-19 or because they are diagnosed with, or under investigation for, COVID-19.
- **Mortgages** – the governor has enacted an executive order that stops lenders from initiating the mortgage foreclosure process.
- **Courts** - the court is following Phase IV of its progressive phased reopening plan. For more information, please contact the courts directly.
- **Price Gouging** - by order of the governor, during the current state of emergency, businesses are prohibited from increasing prices, commonly known as price gouging. If you find a retailer who is increasing prices, contact the Office of the Attorney General by phone at 410-528-8662 (voice/relay) or email consumer@oag.state.md.us (include a picture of the item and price sticker for reference).

Covid-19 Related Scams:

Now that COVID-19 vaccines are here, scams are cropping up as well. Here are some COVID-related scams to watch out for:

- You are told you can pay to put your name on a waiting list to get the vaccine sooner.
- A scammer offers to sell or ship the vaccine to you for free; beware of any advertisements for vaccines on social media.
- Hang up if you get a call about the vaccine that asks for your Social Security, bank account or credit card number. Ignore any vaccine offers asking you to pay out of pocket; the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided free by the US government.
- Scammers are now selling fake vaccination cards online; people are buying these fake cards to avoid actually getting the vaccine. The cards may be required by the travel industry for proof of vaccination in order to travel.
- DO NOT post pictures of your vaccination card on social media, since they show your name and date of birth; you could be opening yourself to Identity Theft and other fraud.
- **Report any scams to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [Reportfraud.FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/whistleblower)**