



April 9, 2020

During this time of crisis, we would like to remind all citizens to be cautious of potential scams related to Coronavirus/COVID-19. A few tips for avoiding scams:

- If you are approached by a solicitor always ask to see their permit from the Mayor's office. All legitimate solicitors/companies will have applied for and received a permit and are required to carry this permit on their person while conducting business. The City of Massillon has not approved anyone to go door to door providing coronavirus testing, distributing information related to the virus, or selling personal protective equipment.
- Remember: Do not to send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request, whether it comes as a text, a phone call, email or in person.
- If you receive a call from an unknown number claiming to be a friend or family member in need of assistance be sure to verify their identity. Attorney General Dave Yost provides the following tips:
 - Confirm with another family member that this person is out of town or in need of assistance.
 - Confirm the caller's identity by calling them back at a phone number you know to belong to that person.
 - Ask the caller something only they would know the answer to, such as the alleged caller's birthday.
- The IRS will not be calling or emailing requesting your information in order to receive federal stimulus funding.
- Always make sure information comes from a verified and trustworthy source.
 - Information from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) can be verified on their website at www.cdc.gov.
 - Information from the Governor and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) can be verified at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.
 - You can find activities, information, resources and updates regarding COVID-19 here: <https://massillonohio.gov/covid-19-information-resources/>
- The following News Release is from Attorney General Dave Yost's office regarding potential coronavirus-related scams: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/March-2020/AG-Yost-Warns-of-an-Outbreak-of-Scams-Related-to-C>