

We are **Marine Corps Community Services**,
and we are here to serve you.

Financial Solutions Newsletter



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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)

IRS: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

GROSS ADJUSTED INCOME is the trigger for payments and the IRS will use 2019 taxpayer forms to determine how much a person's check should be and where it should be sent. If 2019 taxes have yet to be filed, the IRS would use information from taxpayers' 2018 forms. This could be problematic for low-income Americans who don't file taxes. No worries, just go to the IRS website and file. You will still owe no taxes; however, IRS will have info to send your check.

Your payments will be paid electronically if you have provided direct deposit information to the IRS on your 2018 or 2019 tax returns.

Now the Not So Happy News: "Phasing"

Remember that 'Trigger' I mentioned. 'The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).' Go back to your 2018 or 2019 Tax Return and find that line. Triggers are:

\$75,000 Single
\$150,000 Married Filing Jointly
\$112,500 Head of Household

Once over those thresholds, you'll lose \$5 of your payment for every \$100 your AGI exceeds those thresholds.

Quick Examples:

- Single with no kids. Your \$1,200 will be wiped out completely if your AGI exceeded \$99,000. Here's the math: $\$99,000 - \$75,000 \text{ equal } \$24,000 \times 5\% = \$1,200$.
- Married, no kids. Your \$2,400 will be wiped out if your AGI exceeded \$198,000. Your math looks like this: $\$198,000 - \$150,000 \text{ equal } \$48,000 \times 5\% = \$2,400$.

So, hug the kids, because if you've got kids, then obviously, it will take more income before all the payment is wiped out. For example, a married couple with two children who is eligible for the maximum payment of \$3,400 wouldn't lose all their payment until AGI exceeded \$218,000.



Economic Impact Payments from the IRS will begin in the next 2-3 weeks and will be distributed automatically.

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS

The CARE Act Bill will provide:

- **\$1,200** for individuals
- **\$2,400** for joint taxpayers
- Additionally, taxpayers with children will receive a flat **\$500** for **EACH CHILD** under 17 years old.

GREAT NEWS: The payment(s) will not be counted as taxable income for recipients.

KEY POINT- DON'T FORGET: Any payment you receive acts as an advance payment of a credit on your 2020 tax return.



FEDERAL EXTENSION

**JULY 15, 2020 DEADLINE FOR
PAYMENTS AND FILING OF
FEDERAL INCOME TAXES**

**FEDERAL INCOME TAX FILINGS
CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED
AND REFUNDS GETTING
PROCESSED AND DELIVERED
AS USUAL**

**COVID-19 Scams UPDATED
03APR20 at 1123**

COVID-19 Scams

Unfortunately, these scams prey on fears about the coronavirus disease, trying to trick service members and family members into revealing sensitive information or donating money to a fraudulent cause. Bogus emails that look legitimate can offer fake alerts or information about the outbreak, fake workplace policy updates, or fake medical advice. By clicking on links in these emails, you could download malware or have your identity stolen.

There are safety measures you can take to protect yourself: Avoid clicking on links or attachments in unsolicited emails. Use trusted sources such as legitimate government websites for information. Don't reveal personal or financial information. Avoid emails that insist you act now. Remember, there are always people looking to take advantage of a crisis to harm other – be vigilant!

People's fears of the coronavirus and the lack of medical supplies such as masks have generated scams and schemes that are spreading fast. Here are the top 8 scams that Marines and families need to be aware of during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Here's a quick summary of the scams and resources that can help.

1. Free Vaccines and Special Virus Tests and Kits Scam

Beware of con artists pitching free vaccines and special virus tests and kits that claim they are covered by insurance. These false offers require payment for fees and shipping. They entice people to order over the phone or internet.

What to do: If someone calls or sends an email offering COVID-19 testing and it has not been authorized by a physician, they are advised to call the police immediately and keep a record of the person's name and the date of the encounter.

- Complete an electronic report to www.FTC.gov
- Register and report unwanted calls to 'The National Do Not Call Registry.'

- Register your home or mobile phone for free:
<https://www.donotcall.gov/>

2. Patient Insurance 'CANCELLED' Scam

This scam is when servicemembers receive unsolicited calls saying a loved one is sick in the hospital with COVID-19. The scammer warns that the patient health insurance was cancelled and entice the servicemember to pay over the phone to reinstate coverage.

What to do: Click or touch off on the connected call, do not talk with the caller. If servicemembers, spouses, or family members need to discuss current coverages here are two credible resources:

- Online: MilConnect:
<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>
- By phone: TRICARE (Get local number here)
<https://www.tricare.mil/about/partners>



COVID-19 Scams Cont.

3. Low-Cost COVID-19 Insurance Scam

Scammers are pitching low-cost “coronavirus” or “COVID-19” health coverage with no waiting period, deductibles or exclusions. Expect robocalls mostly. The promise of full coverage at affordable prices is the pitch. The callers borrow legitimacy as they claim to be mainstream insurance companies. People are asked to call a toll-free number where a trained marketer may try to sell coverage.

What to do: The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) wants you to take extra precautions to spot and stop scammers before it’s too late. Read: [Tips to Protect Yourself against COVID-19 Scams](https://content.naic.org/article/consumer_alert_tips_protect_yourself_against_covid_19_scams.htm)

•If you have a problem with an insurance company or agent, file a complaint here: <https://content.naic.org/consumer.htm>

4. Scams to DEPLOYED Service members’ Spouses

These military families are vulnerable to bogus cold-callers and spam emails claiming to be from insurance agents. The scammers will pitch false COVID-19 insurance policies.

What to do: Read NAIC’s ‘[Tips to Protect Yourself against COVID-19 Scams.](https://content.naic.org/article/consumer_alert_tips_protect_yourself_against_covid_19_scams.htm)’

•If Servicemembers, spouses or family member need to discuss current coverages, go online to MilConnect: <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/> or call TRICARE (Get local number here) <https://www.tricare.mil/about/partners>

5. ROBO calls Scams

Hackers use ‘robo’ technology to pitch false insurance deals to consumers of all ages, daily. These pitches may ask consumers to pay insurance premiums without delivering coverage. These robo COVID-19 insurance cons also can work to steal people’s medical and financial identities.

What to do: Report illegal robocalls at www.ftc.gov/calls. Simply ignore pitches for Coronavirus or COVID-19 insurance. Click “OFF” or delete email. No response is the correct response.

6. Phishing Email Scam

Scammers can obtain your personal data by sending phishing emails. Clicking links to fake insurers may load viruses on your computer that puts you at risk of identity theft.

What to do: The best thing to do when a phishing email is received is to delete it. Here are some warning signs that may indicate a phishing attempt.

- Phishing emails are crafted by computer hackers, not English majors. Watch for spelling and grammatical mistakes. If an email includes spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors, it is likely a sign you’ve received a phishing email.
- Avoid emails that sounds like a salesman. Phishing emails often try to create a sense of urgency or demand immediate action. If you click that link and provide your personal information, you may regret it.
- Legitimate government agencies won’t ask for your personal information. Never respond to the email with your personal data. Even if the icon or logo looks legit.
- Read the warning letters issued by the FTC and FDA to seven sellers of unapproved and misbranded products, claiming they can treat or prevent the Coronavirus. <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2020/03/ftc-fda-send-warning-letters-seven-companies-about-unsupported>
- You can report phishing to The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) by sending email to phishing-report@us-cert.gov





The Personal Financial Management Program is here for you and your family as you adjust to the new normal. Every Friday, in the wake of the COVID-19 situation, we will provide the PFM's Financial Solutions Corner, where we will discuss ways to stay on top of your finances during these uncertain times.

Just as we begin to navigate life with COVID-19, the Financial Industry has begun adjusting their strategy, which affects everyone's finances. We are collecting the updates and will publish a Friday Financial Solutions Newsletter for the duration of the crisis.

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Please schedule appointments by e-mail.

Phone Number: 703-614-6950

Or contact your unit's Command Financial Specialist.

7. Charity Scams

Military Service members and families must also beware of charity scams. Scammers will reach out via phone and pose as a real charity or pretend to be following up on a donation pledge.

What to do: Verify a charitable organization's authenticity before you donate: Visit the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website to learn how to verify a charity.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0074-giving-charity>

8. Bread Crumbing Scam

Beware of PROFITS and NON-Profits that "breadcrumb" you to buy Products and Services. They pretend to offer free consultation but will require you to purchase products and services.

What to do: Ignore calls and emails claiming low-cost insurance or other suspicious deals. Don't press "1" or another key to be removed from a call list.

Next week's Friday Financial Solutions

Week 4 Newsletter:

Communicating about Money

Unemployment

New Retirement Account Rules.



GOVERNMENT INFORMATION: WEBSITE

The Consumer Financial Protection Agency: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus/>

CFPB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CFPB/>

Department of Defense Office of Financial Readiness: <https://finred.usalearning.gov/>

FINRED Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DoDFINRED/>

Military OneSource: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

MOS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/military.1source/>

RELIABLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Internal Revenue Service: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-day-now-july-15-treasury-irs-extend-filing-deadline-and-federal-tax-payments-regardless-of-amount-owed>

IRS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IRS/>

Double-check your state's tax deadlines. Go to your states' guidance on TAX deferments:

<https://www.aicpa.org/content/dam/aicpa/advocacy/tax/downloadabledocuments/coronavirus-state-filing-relief.pdf>

Thrift Savings Plan: <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/Content/index.html>

TSP Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tsp4gov/>

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: <https://www.fdic.gov/coronavirus/faq-customer.pdf>

FDIC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FDICgov/>

MORTGAGE RELIEF AVAILABLE:

Federal Mortgage Home Loan Relief FAQ: <https://www.aarp.org/money/credit-loans-debt/info-2020/mortgage-coronavirus-faq.html>

Fannie Mae Website: <https://www.knowyouroptions.com/covid19assistance>

Fannie Mae Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fanniemae/>

Freddie Mac Website COVID-19: <https://myhome.freddiemac.com/own/getting-help-disaster.html?sf119393107=1&fbclid=IwAR0cQp8wHhcWfPVbzZJfVNCwktm2EToKMkSXDBsCTCiwbPp5M9PHCISYh5c>

Freddie Mac Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FreddieMac/>

STUDENT LOAN RELIEF AVAILABLE:

Federal Student Loan Relief: <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus> Federal

Student Aid Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FederalStudentAid/>

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR RELIEF:

FOR MILITARY: Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society FAQ: <https://www.nmcrs.org/>

NMCRS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NMCRS/>

FOR CIVILIANS: CALL 211

Dial 211 to speak to someone who can help with finding food, paying housing bills:

<http://www.211.org/services/covid19>

(SBA) SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION RELIEF:

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

SBA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SBAgov/>

