



Denville Police Department

Advisory: Covid-19 Related Scam

Dear Byron Walker,

The Denville Police Department wants to inform everyone that police departments throughout the country have experienced an increase in citizens reporting scams during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the scams that has been seen is regarding COVID-19's contact tracing initiative. State public health departments throughout the entire country have been tasked with developing and monitoring programs regarding contact tracing of COVID-19 through their states/communities. Although New Jersey and Morris County are still developing the programs, scammers are pretending that the contact tracing initiative is already in place.

Scammers have taken this opportunity to develop a scam in which they pose as a state health department representative and send a text message or phone call fabricating that the recipient was in close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19. In some cases, a text message from the scammer will have a link attached to the text message, which when clicked will download software to your cellphone giving the scammer access to your personal and financial information. Furthermore, if you receive a phone call from an individual who states that they are a representative of the state health department's contact tracing team, they will never ask for personal identifying or financial information like social security numbers, banking information and credit card information.

In order to protect yourself from this type of scam, please remember the following:

- A representative from a state health department's contact tracing team will never ask for personal information, such as a social security number, banking information or credit card information.
- Any text messages that you receive regarding your contact with a COVID-19 infected individual will not have a link for you to click.
- Make sure that your cellphone has the most up-to-date operating and security software.
- Ask your banking institutions on how to make your online banking accounts utilize multi-factor authentications. This would require an individual to provide two or more credentials to log into an account.
- Utilize your cellphone's spam options to filter unwanted text messages and calls.
- Contact your wireless provider for any tools or services they provide to block unwanted text messages and calls.

In closing, the Denville Police Department wants anyone who feels they have been victimized by this type of scam, or any other suspected scam, to contact the Denville Police Department to file a report. By taking the above actions to protect yourself, you not only drastically decrease your chances of becoming a victim of this scam, you also decrease your chances of being a victim of any scam.