

## ***SECURITY CLEARANCE NEWS- APRIL 2020***

### ***Message from Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, Consolidated Adjudications Facility (CAF):***

Apr 6 - The CAF hopes you all are staying safe and healthy during these uncertain times. We acknowledge COVID-19 is affecting everyone differently; whether it is an inability to pay bills on time, need for mental health treatment, or other emerging concerns. Rest assured our adjudicative staff applies the whole person concept including consideration of circumstances beyond a person's control so as long as the individual acts responsibly under the circumstances. Continue to report in accordance with self-reporting requirements with the knowledge that our process complies with the Security Executive Agent Directives and applies the whole person concept.

### ***FTC: COVID-19 scam reports, by the numbers***

By Paul Witt, Lead Data Analyst, Division of Consumer Response & Operations

Apr 13 – The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Consumer Information Division reports that...scammers are out in force, taking advantage of all aspects of the Coronavirus pandemic. We've spotted plenty of bogus cures and treatments, but many of you have told the FTC about straight-up scams, like texts/emails/calls from a "government agency" promising to get your relief money for you. Others have told us about things that could be scams (or could be businesses catching up with the new reality) — like websites that promise scarce cleaning products or masks (that never arrive), or problems related to getting money back for cancelled travel plans.

Every weekday, the Bureau of Consumer Protection's data analysts pull all those reports together to give you a glimpse into what the data is telling us. You can find that report at <http://www.ftc.gov/exploredata>

From January 1 until today, the FTC has gotten 18,235 reports related to COVID-19, and people reported losing \$13.44 million dollars to fraud.

The top complaint categories relate to travel and vacations, online shopping, bogus text messages, and all kinds of imposters.

While reports of robocalls are way down overall, we're now hearing about callers invoking the COVID-19 pandemic to pretend to be from the government, or making illegal medical or health care pitches, among other topics.

If you're getting calls, emails, or texts, or you're seeing ads or offers online, keep a few things in mind: First, the government will never call out of the blue to ask for money or your personal information (like Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers). And second, anyone who tells you to pay by Western Union or Money Gram, or by putting money on a gift card, is a scammer. The government and legit businesses will never tell you to pay that way.

To keep up with the latest scams: <https://www.ftc.gov/stay-connected>

To report submit a report or complaints:

<https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/submit-consumer-complaint-ftc>



Please do not hesitate to notify any member of the WBSI Security Team (below) if you have any questions or need additional guidance. Thank you!

**Any Questions? Please contact us:**

Holly Higgins/FSO: [holly.higgins@wbsi.com](mailto:holly.higgins@wbsi.com)

John Deffenbaugh/AFSO: [John.Deffenbaugh@wbsi.com](mailto:John.Deffenbaugh@wbsi.com)

Sarah Del Cid/AFSO: [Sarahk@wbsi.com](mailto:Sarahk@wbsi.com)