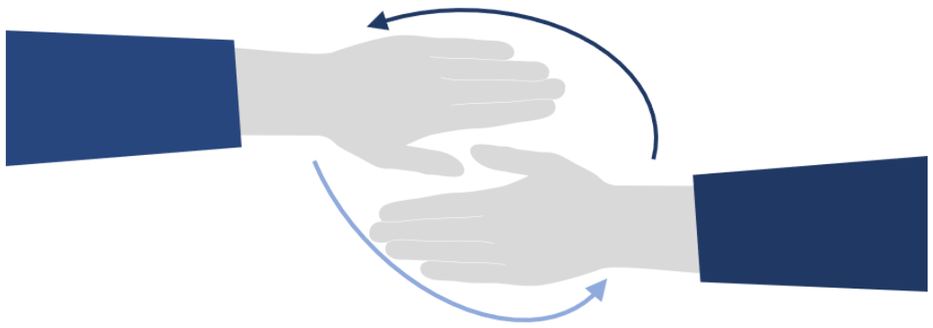
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

COVID-19 and FRAUD

COVID-19 has greatly shifted the economic and social atmosphere of the world leaving unusual consequences for our nation. The negative social and economic impacts associated with the pandemic may lead to increased receptiveness of individuals, households, and businesses to donations and sudden windfalls. Fraudsters will try to use uncertainty to their advantage. Therefore, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) would like to advise the general public to be aware of the increased risk of fraud during the current COVID-19 pandemic.



The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) issues this Alert in accordance with section 7(1)(d) of the FIU Act, requiring the FIU to take such measures as may be necessary to counteract financial crimes.

Financial Intelligence Unit **4998 Coney Drive, Belize City** **(501) 223-2729**

Pandemic Prevalent Frauds

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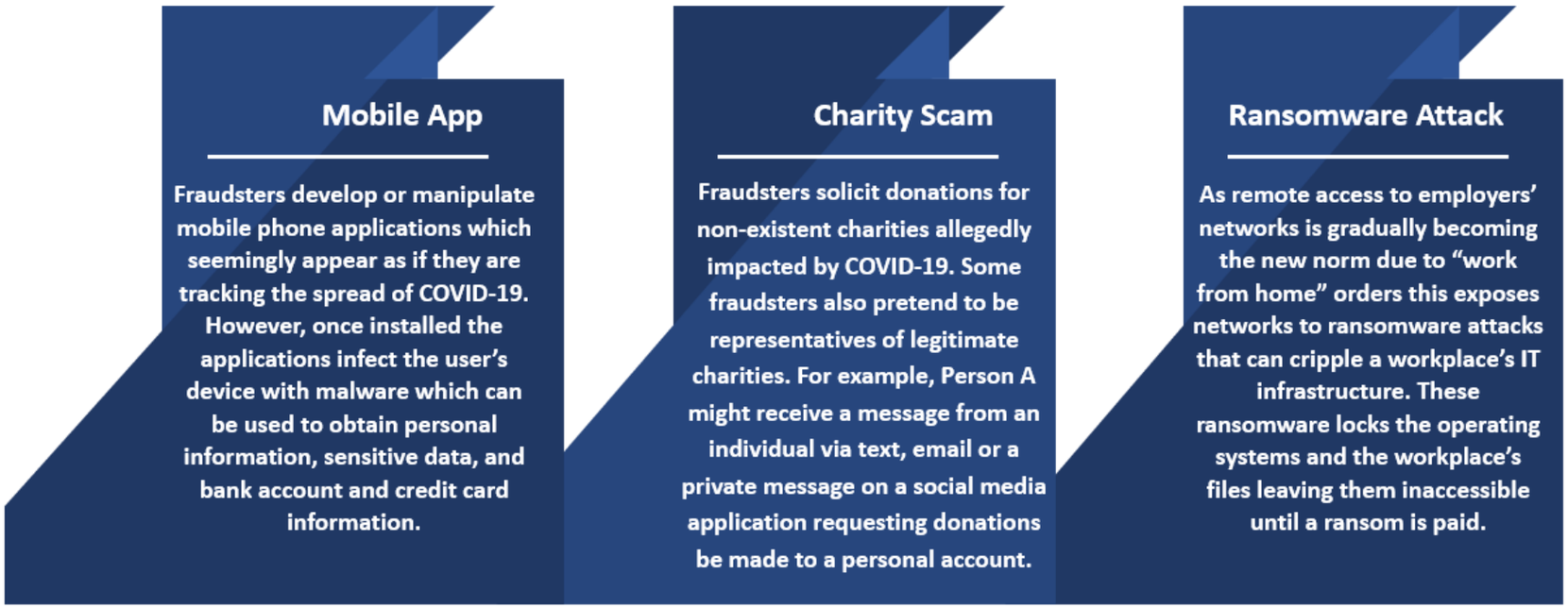
Pandemic Prevalent Frauds



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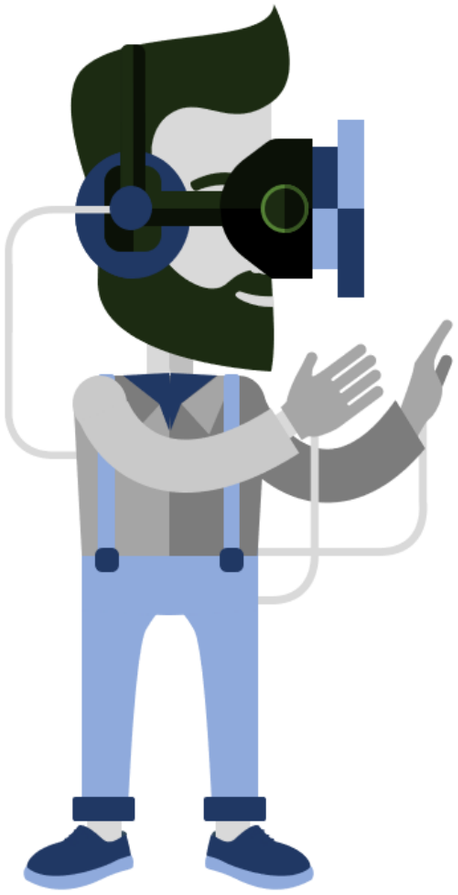
Caution!



There are many ways to protect yourself and businesses from being victims of these COVID-19 scams. One way to reduce vulnerability is to remain alert of how criminals are attempting to take advantage of this pandemic.

- Be wary of unsolicited emails.
- Do not click on links or open attachments from unknown or unverified senders. Check email addresses from sources claiming to have information regarding COVID-19. Look for spelling errors or miscellaneous symbols in email addresses and in the body of the emails.
- Be careful of fake online shops that use non-traditional payment methods, such as money orders, funds transfers, gift cards, or cryptocurrencies.

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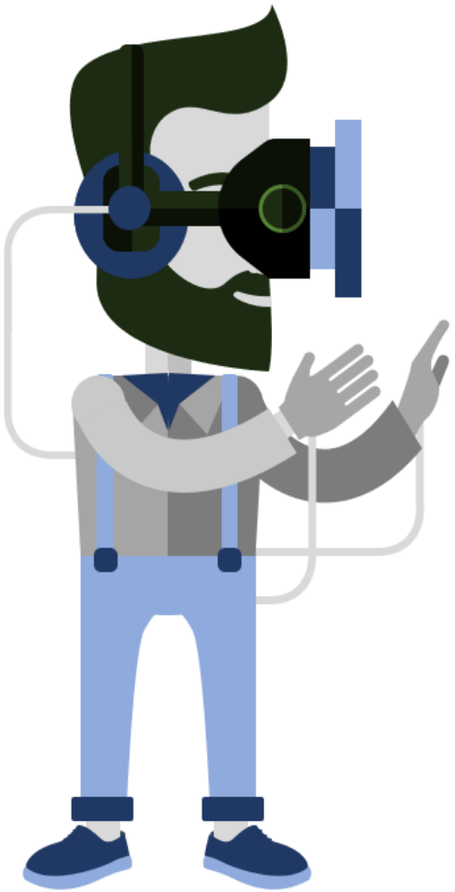

- Do background checks on entities or organizations before making charitable donations. Be wary of any business, charity, or individual who solicits donations in cash.
- Be mindful of what you share on social media. Avoid sharing pictures of home-desk/workstation on social media as you may unintentionally share confidential information.
- Secure e-mails and social media accounts with multi-factor authentication (for example, consider combining the use of password along with a security question).
- Keep up to date with current advancements in finance, technology, and criminal activity. This will inform you of emerging security threats as well as measures to safeguard yourself.

Please report any transaction/activity involving fraud to the Financial Intelligence Unit.

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