



REMINDERS



Join us for the SMP
Volunteer Meeting on
March 17 at 11:00 AM.

Topic: COVID-19 Fraud

- To join by computer
Click [HERE](#)
- To join by phone dial
646-558-8656, Meeting
ID: 533 682 2516

Hello,

As you may have heard, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 on May 11, 2023. We need to be on high alert for scammers who may take this opportunity to push a few more COVID-19 scams out before then.

Be on the lookout for scammers who:

1. Send COVID-19 at-home test kits to Medicare beneficiaries and then bill Medicare for reimbursement -or-
2. Target beneficiaries by calling, running websites and television ads for free COVID tests and that ask for your personal information.

Remember to carefully review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB). Look for errors or claims for products or services that weren't received.

Our March Fraud of the Month will review COVID-19 fraud in more detail and will be featured on page 2 of this newsletter, newspaper ads, toolkit and our volunteer meeting on March 17th. We are very excited to welcome new volunteers from the Staten Island Jewish Community Center and Newtown Senior Center in Queens, NY. We shared photos (on back) during their recent SMP Foundations Training and look forward to having them join us in our future volunteer meetings and events. Have a great week and stay warm out there!

- NY StateWide Senior Action Council Staff

COVID-19 Vaccines and Testing After the PHE Ends

VACCINES: People with Medicare coverage will continue to have access to COVID-19 vaccinations without cost sharing after the end of the PHE.

TESTING: People with Medicare coverage can continue to receive COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests with no cost sharing when the test is ordered by a physician or other health care providers (ex: physician assistant, registered nurses, and performed by a laboratory.)

Access to free over-the-counter COVID-19 tests will end with the end of the PHE.

For more information, you can view the full CMS PHE Fact Sheet [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, you can always call our certified outreach counselors at 800-333-4374.

Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

COVID-19 Fraud—Report it!

Scammers rapidly alter their tactics and adapt their schemes to the changing landscape. Let's review some tactics scammers are using and when to report it:

- You provided your Medicare number to someone other than your doctor, health care provider, or other trusted representative who contacted you through an unsolicited call, text, or email.
- Someone comes to your door offering "free" coronavirus testing, treatment, or supplies.
- You were told there was a COVID-19 Medicare card coming and you needed to confirm your Medicare number.
- You took a survey and gave out your Medicare number in exchange for money or gifts.
- You purchased a COVID-19 vaccination card.

Phishing Messages About At-Home COVID-19 Tests—BBB Scam Alert

How the scam works—You receive a call, get a message, or spot a social media post. You qualify for **free at-home COVID-19 tests** from your insurance or the government. **But quantities are limited, and you need to apply immediately.**

They ask you to provide a few basic details to receive your tests delivered straight to your door. The form – or, in the case of a phone scam, the caller – asks for your name, contact information, and insurance information, including copies of your insurance cards or Medicare number. They may also ask for your credit card number to cover a small delivery fee. [Watch the CBS4 segment](#)

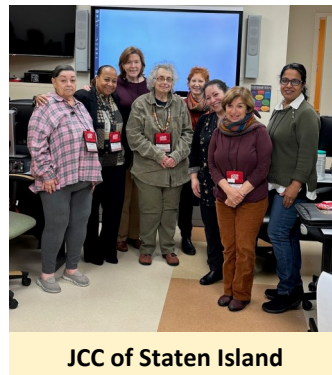
(Source: www.bbb.org, 2/23)

New SMP Volunteers from the JCC of Staten Island & Newtown Senior Center

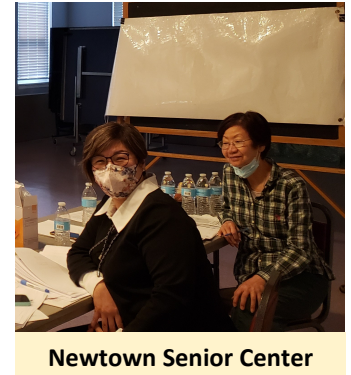
A warm welcome to our newest SMP volunteers from the JCC of Staten Island and Newtown Senior Center in Queens. They recently completed their Foundations Training and are ready to fight fraud in their community!



JCC of Staten Island



JCC of Staten Island



Newtown Senior Center



Newtown Senior Center