

The New Jersey State Human Services Police



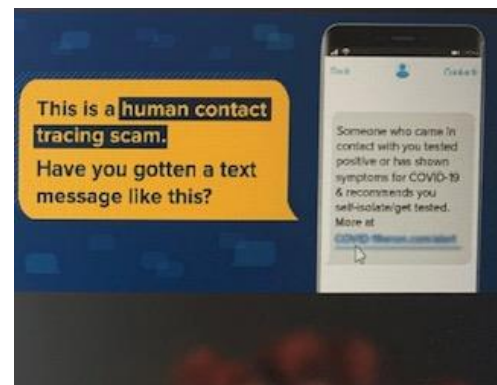
Information Alert: COVID-19 Contract Tracing Text Message Scam

May 21, 2020

The New Jersey State Human Services Police is aware of a COVID-19 Contract Tracing Text Message Scam and wants to share the awareness to you and your constituents to help keep them safe from scams by staying informed.

Scammers are pretending to be contact tracers by sending text messages. Their spam text messages ask you to click a link. Unlike a legitimate text message from a health department, which only wants to let you know they will be calling, this message includes a link to click.

In legitimate circumstances, people who had contact with someone infected with COVID-19 may first get a text message from the health department, telling them they will get a call from a specific number. The tracer who call **will not** ask for personal information. At the end of a legitimate call, some governmental authorities will ask if the contact would like to enroll in a text message program, which sends daily health and safety reminders until the 14-day quarantine ends. But the legitimate **tracers will not ask for money or personal information such as social security, bank account, or credit card numbers.** If you receive such a call it is a scammer.



For more information, please visit the Federal Trade Commission website:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/05/covid-19-contact-tracing-text-message-scams>