Concord, NH – Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald urges people in New Hampshire to be on the alert for charitable giving and consumer product scams related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Scammers may take advantage of fears related to COVID-19 outbreak by selling bogus “treatment” and “prevention” products, establishing fake charities, and sending seemingly legitimate emails with malicious links or attachments.

**Be Careful When Making Charitable Donations**

- Before making donations to support those who are ill or suffering financially because of the COVID-19 outbreak, do your homework:
  - If the appeal claims to be from a charity, make sure that it is registered with the Attorney General’s Charitable Trusts Unit. The list may be found here: [https://www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/](https://www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/);

- If the appeal is for an individual, think hard about donating unless you know the person needing help and that person’s circumstances;

- Do not let anyone rush you into making a donation;

- Check that you are dealing with a legitimate charity or individual and not an “imposter” with a deceptively similar name;

- Do not assume that social media recommendations for donations are legitimate.

**Beware of False Claims and Deceptive Marketing**

- Do not be tempted by claims and advice on social media and online websites that certain products or treatments can cure or prevent COVID-19.

- There currently are no prescription or over-the-counter pills, vaccines, oils, lotions, or other products available to treat or cure COVID-19. Always check with your health care provider before buying such products.

**Be on the Lookout for Phony CDC Emails**
Be careful about opening emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or from others claiming to have information about COVID-19. Clicking on links or attachments could cause a computer virus to infect your device.

**Stay Informed**

- For up-to-date information about the COVID-19 outbreak in New Hampshire visit: nh.gov/covid19

To report a charitable giving scam, contact the Charitable Trusts Unit:
- Phone: 603-271-3591
- Email: charitabletrusts2@doj.nh.gov
- Website: www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/

To report a business-related scam, contact the Consumer Protection Hotline:
- Phone: 1-888-468-4454
- Email: DOJ-CPB@doj.nh.gov
- Website: www.doj.nh.gov/consumer/complaints/