

Cathay United Helps You to Prevent Fraud Risk During the Pandemic

While people across the nation are working together to fight against Covid-19, some criminals take advantage by committing pandemic-related fraud. This disrupts the public order, causing property loss and undermining social laws and morals.

At this crucial time, please be aware of potential scams and learn how to prevent fraud and protect your properties.

Types of pandemic-related telecom and online fraud

Surgical mask trading fraud

Criminals may lie and suggest they can buy surgical masks for you or have masks for sale. Once you have paid, they will create excuses and refuse to give you the masks or directly block you after stealing your money.

Transportation ticket refund/exchange fraud

Criminals may send messages, claiming that your flight or train has been canceled and you are entitled to compensation via a refund or an exchange. They may ask you to call a number or access a website they have provided to get your bank account details, password, or mobile phone authentication information. Criminals will then use this data to steal your money or information.

Fake charity fraud

Criminals may contact you by phone or via the internet disguised as a charity group or the Ministry of Civil Affairs to give you fake charity information for Covid-19 prevention. They may also establish fake official-looking websites to deceive you into donating to them.

Hospitalization fraud

Criminals may spread false online information suggesting they can arrange

hospitalization opportunities for patients in exchange for money. Once payment has been made, criminals will cut contact with the victims.

Fake medication fraud

Criminals may pose as government/CDC/medical research institution representatives to promote fake anti-Covid 19 medication or “new drugs” to deceive people and steal their money.

Lies regarding sick family members/friends for fraud

Criminals may call to claim that family members or friends of the victims are sick and quarantined to request payments for the “hospitalization costs” or “medical treatment fees”. Once payment has been made, criminals will cut contact with the victims.

At this crucial time, please be aware that

1. Purchases for face masks/alcohol/disinfectants or donations should be made through official channels;
2. Web links in message from strangers may be fraudulent. Contact the customer service related to the official websites for verification when receiving messages regarding transportation ticket refunds or exchanges;
3. Money transfers or donations should not be made to an individual account that requires provision of the card number, payment account number, and password;
4. In the case of suspected fraud, promptly call 110 or go to a nearby public security unit; and
5. It is recommended to contact the “Tencent Mobile Manager” when receiving a fraudulent phone call or report to customer service or Tencent 110 for any QQ or WeChat fraudulent messages.

Reminder: This content is consolidated based on related data from the National Anti-Fraud Center of the Ministry of Public Security.