

11th December 2020

## BEWARE OF VACCINATION SCAMS

With the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine beginning this week, residents are warned of criminals seeking to exploit the pandemic further.

### Fake Text Messages & Calls

Basildon has been one of the worst affected areas in Essex for Coronavirus and as a result, scammers have been targeting residents with fake text messages. Essex Trading Standards have warned that the messages ask residents to click a link in order to book their vaccination, before proceeding to take personal details and payment requests.

**The Covid-19 vaccination is free and you will never be asked for payment.**

In other parts of the country, people have also received phone calls to book non-existent 'vaccine appointments'. They are asked to confirm their booking by pressing a number on their phone which results in them being billed by their provider.

### 'VIP' vaccine tickets

Phishing scams continue to circulate, many now claiming to offer 'VIP' vaccination tickets that will allegedly put people at the head of the vaccination queue—for a price. Similar to the scams that have been seen throughout the pandemic, they will often ask you to click on a link or provide personal/banking details to pay for the ticket.

**Remember—if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!**

The vaccine is currently being offered to those most at risk, particularly the elderly.  
**Please pass this information on to anyone you think may be vulnerable to these scams.**



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101  
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online **at** [essex.police.uk](https://essex.police.uk)

