



Since the outbreak of the coronavirus and the mandated closure of certain businesses, there has been a high loss of jobs and many people are searching for work, which makes employment scams particularly onerous. Information being shared publicly or through social media can become an opportunity for fraudsters to find vulnerable people, so BBB encourages caution.

Be wary of any job that asks for money. Scammers will often use the guise of running a credit check, setting up direct deposit or paying for training as a way to gain personal information.

Check out a company's website. Con artist's frequently post jobs using the name of real companies, such as Amazon, to lend legitimacy to their cons. Visiting a business' website or giving them a call is easy and a great way to verify if they are real.

Some positions are more likely to be scams. As we deal with the COVID-19 outbreak be wary of work-from-home job offers or any offer with a generic title, e.g., caregiver, administrative assistant or customer service representative. Jobs that don't require special training or licensing appeal to a wide range of applicants. Scammers know this and use these legitimate titles in their phony ads.

Watch out for on-the-spot job offers. A person may be an excellent candidate for a particular job but be careful of any offer made without an interview. A real company will want to talk to a candidate before hiring.

Government agencies post all jobs publicly and freely. The federal government and the [United States Postal Service](#) never charge for information about jobs or applications.

Be aware of job offers that sound too good to be true. As traditional jobs are cut and workers begin to seek new roles or remote opportunities, it is best to avoid job offers that seem too wonderful to last.

For more resources and information regarding COVID-19 and related scams, click [here](#).