The U.S. Food and Drug Administration continues to play a critical role in accelerating medical countermeasures to treat and prevent COVID-19. Working together with clinicians, health care organizations and other partners across the U.S., FDA is committed to meeting the challenge of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, some people and companies are trying to profit from the challenge of this pandemic by selling unproven products that make false claims, such as being effective against COVID-19.

Fraudulent COVID-19 products can come in many varieties, including products claiming to be dietary supplements or other foods, as well as drugs, tests and other medical devices, or vaccines. These fraudulent products that claim to cure, treat, or prevent COVID-19 haven’t been evaluated by the FDA for safety and effectiveness and might be dangerous to you and your family. Products marketed for veterinary use, or “for research use only,” or otherwise not for human consumption, have not been evaluated for safety and should never be used by humans.
The FDA is particularly concerned that these deceptive and misleading claims might cause Americans to delay or stop appropriate medical treatment, leading to serious and life-threatening harm. It’s likely that the products do not do what they claim, and the ingredients in them could cause unexpected side effects and could interact with, and potentially interfere with, essential medications.

The FDA is exercising its authority to protect consumers from firms selling unapproved products with false or misleading claims about COVID-19, including by issuing warning letters and pursuing seizures, injunctions or criminal prosecutions against products and firms or individuals that violate the law.

The FDA is working with medical product developers to rapidly advance the development and availability of tests, vaccines and treatments for COVID-19.

Consumers and healthcare providers can report any fraudulent COVID-19 products to: FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov

TIPS TO IDENTIFY FALSE OR MISLEADING CLAIMS.

- Be suspicious of products that claim to treat a wide range of diseases and any therapy claimed as a “quick fix”
- Personal testimonials are no substitute for scientific evidence
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is
- “Miracle cures,” which claim scientific breakthroughs or contain secret ingredients, are likely a hoax

See Fraudulent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Products for more information.