



## ***New York State Attorney General Letitia James***

# ***Tips to Avoid COVID-19 Procurement Fraud***

### ***Do your due diligence, spot the red flags, and contact the Office of the Attorney General to file a complaint.***

1. Be wary of vendors who use general email addresses; such as @gmail.com, @yahoo.com, @qq.com; who lack websites; or whose websites lack detail.
2. Verify claims of FDA certification or National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approval on the FDA and NIOSH websites. Consult the FDA, CDC, and NIOSH websites for updated information regarding many types of personal protective equipment.
3. Ask new vendors for references, and check those references. Consider contacting the product's manufacturer before committing to a purchase.
4. Include specific important details about the product in the contract or purchase order. Where possible, obtain samples of the product prior to purchase and keep an eye out for counterfeit logos or redacted certifications.
5. Be wary of the promise of quick delivery times, and ask questions about the logistics of shipment and delivery. If possible, try to avoid making any payments in advance of delivery and inspection of the product.
6. Be wary of escrow contracts or terms provided by the vendor: They may not offer the purchaser any real protection.
7. Don't overpay — New York has very recently expanded its law against price-gouging to cover personal protective equipment and other supplies needed in the fight against COVID-19.

HELP Attorney General James combat COVID-19 procurement fraud.

If you believe you've been targeted by someone charging excessive prices or using fraudulent or deceptive practices to sell COVID-19 related supplies, report it to the Office of the Attorney General:

(800) 771-7755,

or forward any suspicious email solicitations to:

***COVIDProcurementFraud@ag.ny.gov.***