

Hello,

Below is information from a recent news release from the Idaho Department of Labor regarding unemployment insurance scams. The full news release can be found [here](#).

The Idaho Department of Labor is warning Idahoans who are applying for unemployment insurance for the first time to be extra vigilant about the websites they access to file for benefits. Applicants need to make sure they enter information into a labor.idaho.gov webpage and not a fake website designed to steal personally identifiable information.

Idahoans who wish to file for unemployment insurance benefits can apply online at labor.idaho.gov/ClaimantPortal. Before they file, the department is asking applicants to watch the videos and review the Frequently-Asked Questions and user guides.

First-time filers for unemployment insurance represent a large share of the Idahoans who are applying for benefits, and according to the department's IT security team, hackers and scammers are taking advantage of the urgency people feel around COVID-19.

State workforce agencies across the country are reporting examples of unemployment insurance fraud activity including:

- **Fake websites offering to help claimants file for unemployment benefits.** These sites ask for confidential/private information including Social Security numbers, street addresses, work history and email addresses. Never give out or enter any information into these websites.
- **Charging customers a fee to file for unemployment benefits.** The department does not charge a fee for filing for unemployment insurance benefits.
- **Scammers asking claimants to upload a copy of their driver's license, birth certificate and other personally identifiable information to a non-governmental website.** People do need to enter a Social Security number and driver's license when filing for benefits online but the Idaho Department of Labor will never ask a customer to upload scanned copies of these documents into its system.
- **Data thieves asking people to verify their identity by providing personally identifiable information within 24 hours.** After someone applies for benefits with the Idaho Department of Labor, the agency will mail them a letter outlining their eligibility status. If they qualify, the claimant will then receive a monetary determination of benefits followed by a series of emails with tips on looking for work.

For more information on protecting yourself from an online crime, visit the [Idaho Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division](#) website or call 1-800-432-3545 (statewide) or (208) 334-2424.