

With major life upheavals, such as in the wake of a natural disaster or during a public health pandemic, come fraudsters and scam artists following closely behind. Arkansas has seen that over the last five months as criminals take advantage of the public's weakened confidence in a stable social order. The state's Deputy Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division, Chuck Harder, says his office has seen it all...

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"...THE CRISIS EVOLVES."

Harder said on "Arkansas Week" his office is dealing with what seems like a second wave of price-gouging of Personal Protective Equipment after a brief lull in complaints in the early summer. He says demand has ticked back up with a continued rise in the number of new COVID cases.

Major disruptions in day-to-day life—such as the nation has experienced over the last five months—always seem to be accompanied by criminals trying to take advantage of the public's vulnerability. Scams on everything from fake vaccines being peddled to identities forged in order to open fraudulent Unemployment Insurance claims have been prevalent. Ryan Kennedy of the F-B-I's Little Rock Office says fraud comes at people from all directions, and they need to be skeptical...

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"...TEXT MESSAGES."

Kennedy, appearing on Arkansas P-B-S, said a member of his family clicked on a text message and fell prey to a scam that ended up draining a significant amount of money from a checking account.

