

## **POLICE WARN OF CORONAVIRUS SCAM WHERE CRIMINALS POSING AS CDC VISIT HOMES IN LAB COATS AND MASKS TO ATTEMPT ROBBERY**

Burglars in the U.S. are taking advantage of the novel coronavirus outbreak by posing as medical experts to gain entry to victims' homes, multiple police departments have warned.

The culprits are reportedly dressing up in white lab coats and masks to pose as scientists linked to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), before knocking on doors and offering advice about the COVID-19 disease or even claiming to be able to test for the new virus.

Daytona Beach Police Department, which described the scam on Facebook this week, said there were no reported cases in the Florida city, but it wanted to be proactive.

"They're attempting to rob the house once they get inside, sometimes by force," it said in a warning.

"If you see someone approaching your house in a white lab coat or mask claiming to be a CDC worker, do NOT let them in. Please call 911 immediately!" the post added.

It is far from the only department to issue such a notice.

Yesterday, the Broward County Sheriff's Office referenced social media posts about the same scam. "This is untrue," its public information officer explained. "The CDC is not visiting residents' homes. During these times, scammers are seeking opportunities to take advantage of consumers."

Multiple warnings were also posted by Ohio authorities, including the Ravenna Police Department, Lorain County Sheriff's Office and Solon Police Department, WEWS-TV reported.

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