

Safety Alert from UMKC Police

April 15, 2020

STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

On April 14, 2020, at 6:54 p.m., the UMKC Police Department was contacted by the victim of a fraud, an internet/phone scam.

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact the United States, phone and computer scammers have seized the opportunity to prey on the public.

How the scam occurs and how to prevent being a victim:

In Outlook, these scammers will usually show as a strange “from” email address. These scammers will attempt to imitate someone you know or trust. If you click “reply” (but *not* “send”), the “from” email address will be more visible; if it does not have a “umkc.edu” ending, it is not from the university. Those who respond to the scam are eventually asked for help buying several hundred dollars in gift cards.

If you receive an email from one of these scammers, do not reply to them. Please report it to the Technology Support Center, 235-2000, or to abuse@umkc.edu. If you have a concern about an email you have received, please contact the Technology Support Center, 235-2000, or techsupportcenter@umkc.edu.

UMKC departments should never buy gift cards without approval from the department fiscal officer.

If you have any information on this incident, please don't hesitate to call the UMKC Police Department at 816-235-1515 and ask to speak with the supervisor on duty.

This information is provided in an effort to keep the community informed of crimes on campus. UMKCPD encourages all victims of crime to report any incident so they may receive assistance, counseling and help. Reports to police can also help UMKCPD apprehend the suspect and provide accurate crime statistics to the community.

Note: federal law requires campus-wide distribution of this alert. (In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998. To learn more about Jeanne Clery, please visit <http://clerycenter.org/>)

Safety tips

The FCC offers the following tips to help you protect yourself from scams, including coronavirus scams:

- Never share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone.
- Be cautious if you're being pressured to share any information or make a payment immediately.
- Scammers often [spooof phone numbers](#) to trick you into answering or responding. Government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.
- Do not click any links in a text message. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure they weren't hacked.
- Always check on a charity (for example, by calling or looking at its actual website) before donating. ([Learn more about charity scams.](#))

For more information about scam calls and texts, visit the [FCC Consumer Help Center](#) and the [FCC Scam Glossary](#). You can also file a complaint about such scams at [fcc.gov/complaints](https://www.fcc.gov/complaints).

Crime prevention and safety tips, as well as informational workshops, may be obtained by contacting the crime prevention office of the UMKC Police Department at 816-235-1515, or visiting the UMKC Police web site, <https://www.umkc.edu/finadmin/police/>