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Health Department's phone numbers spoofed again

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has been the victim of “caller ID spoofing” for many months . Scammers have been making calls to random people all over the United States, using the Health Department’s phone numbers. The scammers claim to be with the Health Department or a Medicare representative. In both instances, the scammer ask for confidential, personal information. The newest technique used by the scammers is to try and get the person on the other line to purchase a knee or back brace using their Medicare coverage. These calls are coming from scammers, not MMDHD.

The scammers are using a technique called caller ID spoofing. They falsify information transmitted to your caller ID to hide their identity. They tend to use a local number from a trusted business or agency, to increase the likelihood that you’ll answer the phone. In this case, they are using MMDHDs phone numbers (Clinton County: 989-224-2195, Gratiot County: 989-875-3681, Montcalm County: 989-831-5237). The Health Department’s number shows up on your caller ID, but it’s really a scammer on the line.

If you receive one of these calls, simply hang up and block the number. If you get a message on your answering machine, do not return the call. Never give out personal information over the phone, like account numbers, Social Security numbers, your mother’s maiden name or passwords to an unsolicited caller or if you are at all suspicious. Legitimate governmental agencies will never contact you by phone asking for personal information.

Other tips to avoid becoming a victim of spoofing:

- Don’t answer calls from unknown numbers.
- If you answer the phone and you are asked to hit a button to stop getting calls, hang up.
- Do not respond to questions, especially those that can be answered with “yes” or “no.”
- If you get a call and you are suspicious, hang up and call the number listed in the phone book, or on the company’s or agency’s website.
- Use caution if you are pressured for information.

For more information about spoofing or if you have been a victim, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 or visit <https://www.fcc.gov/spoofing>.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.

Advancing innovative solutions to achieve healthier outcomes

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