

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Dear Iowa State faculty and staff,

We want to help you stay safe against identity theft by informing you of new and common types of fraud, steps you can take to protect your personal information, and resources and tools available if you've been targeted.

**Unemployment Fraud.** This occurs when scammers use your name and social security number to file a false unemployment claim. We have recently been made aware of a few fraudulent unemployment claims filed in the names of current ISU employees. We believe scammers obtained the personal information from somewhere other than ISU. Your personal information is secure on the systems and cloud services used by Iowa State. In an effort to respond promptly to potential fraud, University Human Resources (UHR) will be contacting active employees when an unemployment claim is filed in their name. If you receive a letter from Iowa Workforce Development that says you filed for unemployment but you did not, please contact UHR at [hrrshelp@iastate.edu](mailto:hrrshelp@iastate.edu).

**Tax ID Theft.** This occurs when criminals use your personal information to file a false tax return in your name and claim the refund. Often, victims don't realize a false tax return has been filed until they attempt to legitimately file their taxes. One way to avoid this type of scam is to file your taxes as soon as you receive all the necessary documentation.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Scams.** These new types of scams include fraudulent advertisements or offers for early access to the COVID-19 vaccine upon payment of a deposit or fee, request that you pay out of pocket to obtain the vaccine, or unsolicited requests for personal and/or medical information to determine your vaccine eligibility. Avoid these scams by consulting the [Iowa Department of Public Health](#) for authorized vaccine distribution channels and only obtaining a vaccine through such channels, or consult your primary care physician about vaccination. Iowa State will continue to provide up-to-date vaccination information on the [COVID-19 vaccinations page](#).

### Protect Your Personal Information

- Never give your personal or health information via phone or email to sources you cannot verify.
- Secure your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet.
- Review your credit card and bank account statements. Watch for unauthorized transactions.
- Shred receipts, credit offers, account statements, and expired credit cards.
- See additional tips to [prevent identity theft](#) from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

If you believe your personal information has been compromised, the FTC offers resources to [report and recover from identity theft](#). [Iowa Workforce Development](#) also offers resources for submitting fraud complaints.

**Free Tools and Resources for ISU Employees.** ISU employees who are eligible for benefits have free access to [Identity Theft Resolution Services](#) through our Employee Assistance Plan (EAP). Employees enrolled in ISU basic life have free access to a [Personal Information Organizer and Identify Theft Kit](#) through ARAG/Principal Financial Group. Wellmark Plan members can sign up for [Identity Protection Services](#) through Wellmark.

Please use caution and practice vigilance any time your personal information is requested.

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Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police	Vice President for University Human Resources	Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness and Director of Thielen Student Health Center