More FTC warnings about scam Coronavirus treatments

June 4, 2020 by Colleen Tressler Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

The FTC continues to seek out and warn sellers who peddle so-called Coronavirus treatments with no proof they work. If you see an ad that says a product can prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19, stop. Think to yourself: if there's actually been a medical breakthrough, am I really going to hear about it for the first time from an ad or sales pitch? The answer is clearly "no." So train yourself to ignore those types of false ads.

Most of the <u>letters announced today</u> target "treatments" offered in clinics or medical offices, including intravenous (IV) Vitamin C and D infusions, supposed stem cell therapy, and immunity boosting shots. All of these products and treatments have one thing in common: there is no evidence — as required by law — that they work against the Coronavirus.

In all, the Commission has sent similar letters to more than 160 companies and individuals. In part, the letters require the sellers to notify the FTC within 48 hours of the specific actions they have taken to address the agency's concerns. The FTC will follow up with companies that fail to make adequate corrections. The good news: in nearly all cases so far, those who get the letters have stopped making the false claims or selling the scam product or treatment.

Want more information about what the FTC is doing to protect consumers during the pandemic, and the latest scams we're seeing? Visit ftc.gov/coronavirus, and sign up for our consumer alerts. See a product claiming to treat, cure or prevent Coronavirus? Report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.