

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2020

by Lynda Ashley, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)

MEAL PROGRAM OPTIONS

Amherst Township's meal program ended February 28, 2020. If you are a senior citizen and would like to receive home delivered meals, below are a few organizations that service our area:

- "Amherst Office on Aging" offers a daily meal delivery. For more information or to enroll please call 440-988-2817.
- "Simply EZ" offers daily meals delivered once a week. These are vacuum sealed, ready to heat meals; just keep in the refrigerator until you want to eat. For more information or to enroll please call 1-800-800-9929.
- "Neighborhood Alliance" offers a daily meal delivery. Cost is based on income, however, there is a waiting list. For more details or to enroll please call 440-277-8269 ext 6214.

Welcome to Medicare

Webinars

Turning 65? New to Medicare? Join OSHIIP (*Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program*) for a "Welcome to Medicare" webinar. Webinars are offered on several dates and times throughout 2020. Select the one that works best for you. The dates and times can be found by logging into the website below:

<https://insurance.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odi/consumers>

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amherstwpseniors@gmail.com

TELEHEALTH

"Telehealth" is the practice of treating patients via technology. Appointments can be completed by phone or computer; in person appointments are not necessary.

Medicare recently expanded coverage for beneficiaries to include "Telehealth" services from their providers. However, as "Telehealth" expands, so does the exposure to fraud.

Following are a few ways to protect yourself from "Telehealth" fraud:

- Call YOUR provider to schedule your "Telehealth" appointment.
- If you receive a phone call from someone offering you free testing, treatment, or supplies – It's a SCAM! Hang up!
- Protect your Medicare Card: Do not give out your Medicare number to anyone other than your doctor or health care provider.
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) for improper billing and items that appear that you didn't order or receive.

Fraud Protection Tips: Facts Vs. Fiction

The economy may be shut down, but business is booming in the fraud arena. Americans are finding themselves at war with fraudsters. The following are just a few of the current frauds related to the COVID-19 pandemic according to the North Dakota's Senior Medicare Patrol (**SMP**):

• COVID-19 Prevention Pill and Cure:

This scam solicits investments in a company that pushes pills and cures, claiming they can cure patients within two to three days. A scammer posted a video on an "Instagram account showing himself taking the pill and then walking into an area with COVID-infected individuals stating that he would not get the virus.

• Coronavirus Medical Kit:

Operators of a fraud scheme, as published on their website, offered consumers access to World Health Organization (WHO) vaccine kits in exchange for a shipping charge of \$4.95, which consumers paid by entering credit card information on the website. Understandably, Americans are desperate to find solutions to keep their families safe and healthy. Fraudsters are seeking to profit from fear and uncertainty by defrauding consumers and committing identity theft.

• Virus Pesticide:

A company claimed that it could reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections in public spaces with the new generation of fungicide which reduces transmissions by 90%. Upon investigation, it was

found that the fungicide was being imported from Japan and was illegal to distribute in the U.S.

• Covid19/Genetic Testing:

A company marketing medically unnecessary genetic testing schemes saw the pandemic as an opportunity to expand on the existing scam, capitalizing on people's fears and using the national emergency for financial gain. The tests were bundled with expensive respiratory pathogen panels with the company receiving kick-backs on a per-test basis. The company marketed the hard to obtain COVID-19 tests, conspiring to bilk citizens of a valuable resource that was in high demand by the medical community.

*Posted By: Steve Urness, May 12, 2020
BISMARCK, N.D. (NewsDakota.com)*

Protect Yourself From COVID-19 Scams

Scams related to the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, are rapidly increasing as the public health emergency develops.

If you believe you have been scammed by a COVID-19 scam, contact the Ohio "Senior Medicare Patrol" (**Ohio SMP**) by calling:

1-800-488-6070 (ask for Lisa)
or 513-458-5515.

You can also "Report Fraud Scams" and find more information by visiting their website at: "**ohiosmp.org**".