



James A. Barcia
Bay County Executive

Joel R. Strasz
Health Officer

1200 Washington Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48708

(989) 895-4003
FAX (989) 895-4014
TDD (989) 895-4049
www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

TO: Public News Media Sources

FROM: Joel R. Strasz
Health Officer

DATE: **December 11, 2019**

RE: **Bay County Health Department Warns of ‘Spoofing’ Phone Scams**

Over the past week, the Bay County Health Department has received a number of calls from all over the state of Michigan and outside of the state, inquiring about calls that were made using the Health Department's name and phone numbers. However, these calls were not made by any of its staff and the **Bay County Health Department NEVER asks for personal or financial information over the phone.**

Individuals are falsely displaying the Health Department's information on consumers' caller IDs and attempting to obtain Medicare insurance information or other sensitive information from the public. This type of fraudulent behavior is commonly known as ‘spoofing’.

To protect the safety of anyone who may receive one of these spoof calls, the Health Department would like to remind the public:

- Do not provide any personal or financial information over the phone in these situations.
- Use caution if you are being pressured by a caller for information immediately.
- If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, verify the authenticity of the caller by confirming their phone number in the phone book or on the company or agency's website.
- And most importantly, never give out personal information over the phone, such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, your mother's maiden name or passwords to an unsolicited caller or if you are at all suspicious.

The Health Department is working closely with the county's IT department and have been assured that no data breach has occurred. This is from an outside source and has no connection to Bay County.