



## Swine Flu Scams

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Believe it or not there are already scam artists looking to take advantage of the swine flu outbreak. As Matt Molloy reports websites and emails are popping up that you should beware of. It was bound to happen, but swine flu scams are spreading almost as fast as the outbreak itself. "Scam artists are going to take advantage of this and they're going to do it in an instantaneous method meaning the internet," said Pat Coakley with the Better Business Bureau. More than 250 websites with the term "swine flu" have been registered since the outbreak. Like [www.noswineflu.com](http://www.noswineflu.com) which offers a swine flu prevention guide for \$19.95. The BBB says: Scam! "Anybody who is asking for money for information, or a vaccine or a medication...No! Absolutely not!" said Coakley. Pediatrician Anne Francis agrees. "I think you are throwing your money away with that type of thing," said Dr. Francis. Both say watch out for offers for a swine flu vaccine for a good reason. One doesn't exist. "A quick fix or an imaginary flu vaccine is not available for the swine flu and these offers are totally bogus," said Coakley. "They are working on a vaccine and there may well be a vaccine available sometime in the next year," said Dr. Francis. Also keep an eye on your inbox. Spam emails like "Madonna caught swine flu!" are being sent. They may not contain viruses, but they link you to online pharmacies. "They are going to approach people, prey upon our fears because people should be a little bit anxious and a little bit cautious about what's going on," said Coakley. Your best bet go to legitimate sites online like [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The Center for Disease Control is constantly providing updates. "They're giving us the real scoop and they are giving us the precautions we should take, the signs we should watch out for, but the guys trying to sell us something for \$19.95 at [noswineflu.com](http://noswineflu.com), no!" said Coakley.

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