



## BBB Tip: Concerned about ID Theft? File early and consider using an IRS PIN

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

The United States' tax season is here, and so are the scammers. Con artists use the Social Security numbers of unsuspecting Americans to file phony tax returns and steal refunds. One way to protect this information is to use an Identity Protection PIN issued by the IRS. In fact, [a number may have been issued to you last year](#) if you filed a return online. Be aware of online identity theft with these tips.

[Read more](#)

## Five things to keep in mind this tax season

BY LILA QUINTILIANI, MILITARY SAVES

Is it really that time of year again? I admit it: I dread tax season. I hate gathering my paperwork, tracking down my W2, making sure I have all my interest and dividend statements. Taxes will never be something I enjoy, but at least I can be prepared. Here are five things to help get you ready for this year's tax season.

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## New guide helps military families with unique financial challenges

BY ANTHONY CAMILLI, CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB)

The coronavirus pandemic has brought many challenges to families all over the country. Many families will take a long time to recover from financial hardship, and some people will have to build a new financial foundation. Military families also faced unique financial challenges as a result of the pandemic. CFPB is providing a new tool to help military families begin reconstruction of their financial houses.

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## What to know about the second round of Economic Impact

## Payment (EIP) checks and cards

BY CRISTINA MIRANDA, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)

The [US Department of the Treasury](#) and the [IRS](#) are working hard to get a second round of Economic Impact Payments (EIP) to people. You might have already gotten your payment direct deposited into your bank account. You might have gotten a check in the mail. But, like last time, some people will get their payment in the mail on an EIP VISA debit card. Don't be surprised if the way you get this second round of payments is different than the first time.

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### BBB Scam Alert: Out-of-the-blue unemployment claim? It's probably fraud

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

It's another unwelcome byproduct of the pandemic: crooks are taking advantage of increased unemployment to collect benefits in the names of unsuspecting victims. This unemployment fraud is [costing the United States government billions of dollars](#).

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### BBB Tip: Don't share your COVID-19 vaccine card on social media

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Got your COVID-19 vaccine? Great job! But don't share a photo of your vaccination card on social media. The self-identifying information on it makes you vulnerable to identity theft and can help scammers create phony versions.

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## Avoid scammers offering to pay your rent

BY LISA LAKE, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)

If you're facing eviction for any reason, there are organizations out there who can help you. But there are also fake "organizations" and "charities" who can hurt you. Whether someone you don't know contacts you out of the blue, or you go looking for rental assistance, here are ways to protect yourself.

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## Food resources for military families with school-aged children

BY RANDI CAIRNS, MILITARY FAMILY ADVISORY NETWORK (MFAN)

You may have seen the news about Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) and

SNAP expansion. Here's the scoop: President Biden signed an [executive order](#) calling on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Congress to issue new guidance that allows states to increase the emergency benefits available via P-EBT and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to ensure school-age children have the food resources they need.

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