

Fraud Alert: Phishing Schemes

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) continues to monitor new phishing schemes targeting individuals. Bad actors posing as IDES representatives are trying to trick individuals into disclosing their personal information through text, email, and social media messages.

It is critical for claimants and the public to remain vigilant to detect fraudulent correspondence:

- **Follow [steps from the FTC](#) to recognize and avoid phishing scams.** The examples below include tell-tale signs of a phishing scam, such as referring to the “Division of Employment Security” as opposed to the “Department of Employment Security” and directing to untrustworthy websites.
- **Strengthen and protect account information.** Individuals collected unemployment insurance should maintain a strong password that is unique to their IDES login, and never share their personal information with an untrustworthy source. For example, information regarding an individual’s IDES account should never be shared on social media. Additional tips are available on [IDES’s fraud webpage](#).

Phishing sample #1: Text Message



Your Illinois Unemployment Insurance Claim is currently on hold for verification purpose. Please verify your claim by clicking the link provided below <https://bit.ly/3z42Ny5> to sign in and activate your account.

Phishing sample #2: Email

From: Illinois Department of Employment Security PUA Benefits <sue@carter82.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:31 AM
Subject: Dear claimant



Phishing sample #3 – Facebook

 **Ademola Bbmc**  t.me/ was approved on the 15th of March 2021, but my payment has been on Hold but I got paid today with the help of Their Telegram Page Messenger Help by verifying my Identity with my Employment history. Message them directly with their handle , they will surely help you out
t.me/IllinoisIDES

Dear claimant,

The Division of Employment Security has added additional \$900 weekly benefit to your existing Unemployment Claim.

Visit [Unemployment Claim \(Regular or PUA\)](#) to certify your \$900 weekly benefits.

The \$900 is paid every week when the unemployment benefits are paid.

Note: The Division of Employment Security will process your claim and verify the information provided is correct

Additional Resources

IDES: [Fraud and Identity Theft Resources](#)

Federal Trade Commission: [How to Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams](#)

US Department of Justice: [Press Release on Unemployment Schemes](#)

USDOL Office of the Inspector General: [Unemployment Insurance Phishing Fraud Alert](#)