

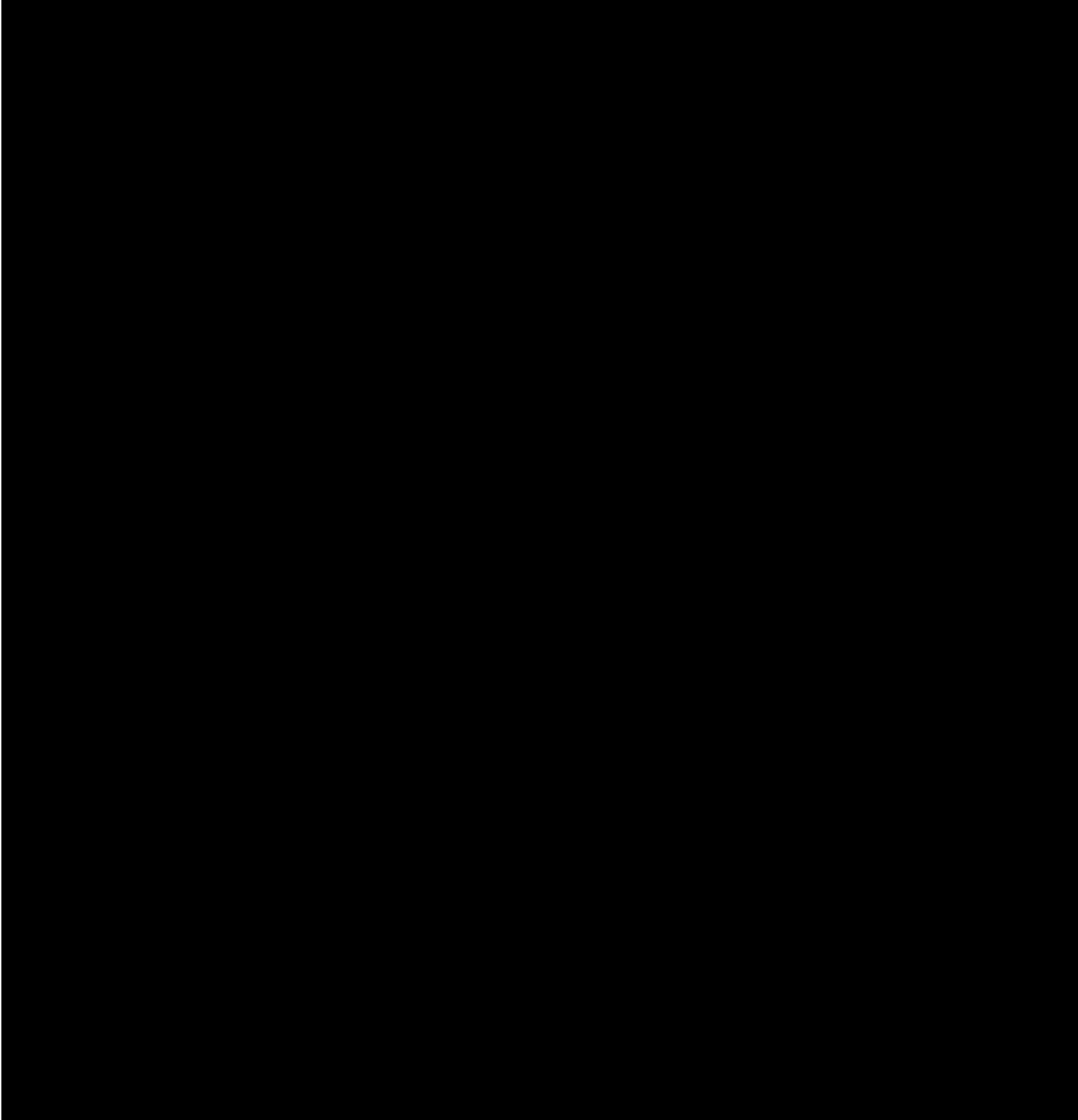


New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

COVID-19 Daily Report


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New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center – COVID-19 Daily Report

(U//FOUO) Not to be shared with the public or media – Nationwide - *Criminal Actors Very Likely Exploiting CARES Act Stimulus Check Distribution Process, Resulting in Theft of Victims' Personally Identifiable Information and Financial Information* - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) assesses criminal actors very likely are adapting schemes to exploit the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act stimulus check distribution process to deceive victims into revealing their personally identifiable information and financial information. Congress passed the CARES Act in March 2020 to provide monetary relief in the form of economic stimulus checks to qualifying persons. As of 22 May 2020, the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had sent \$257.9 billion to 152.1 million individuals. The FBI assumes, based on prior examples, fraud schemes are usually more effective following large-scale disasters. The FBI makes this assessment with medium confidence, based on uncorroborated victim reporting from the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and Other Government Agency (OGA) information.

- Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 

TLP: GREEN Not to be shared with the public or media – Nationwide - *Criminal Actors Exploiting Money Mule Networks to Fraudulently Obtain CARES Act Unemployment Benefits* - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Omaha Field Office, in coordination with the Office of Private Sector (OPS), prepared this Liaison Office Report (LIR) to inform financial institutions about unidentified criminal actors exploiting existing and new networks of money mules to fraudulently obtain federally funded CARES Act unemployment benefits. The criminal actors identify new money mules through online romance scams, work-from-home schemes, and other fraudulent schemes. The money mules typically receive fraudulent CARES Act unemployment benefits via Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfers into new or existing financial accounts. The money mules transfer the fraudulent unemployment benefits to the unidentified criminal actors through cash withdrawals, cashiers' checks, money orders, gift cards or cryptocurrency purchases, or through transfers via online payment systems.

- Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Omaha Field Office & Office of Private Sector (OPS) 