



Consumer Awareness for COVID-19 Safety

Protect yourself, your family, and others through safe online shopping

U.S. Customs and Border Protection wants to help you and your family stay healthy and safe. Some foreign online sellers may be taking advantage of American consumers by charging high prices for counterfeit or substandard sanitation products and safety equipment. Follow these guidelines and be aware before you buy.

Risks to health and safety

Does your purchase meet safety guidelines?

Counterfeit or substandard respiratory masks and hand sanitizer are likely to be low-quality and dangerous. There are currently no at-home tests to diagnose COVID-19 or drugs to prevent or cure the disease that are approved by the FDA. Follow [FDA guidelines](#) for buying online.



Counterfeiters don't care about the well-being of you or those close to you!

What to watch out for

Is the seller legitimate?

Disinfectant supplies and protective equipment are limited everywhere. Be cautious if a seller can fulfill a large order; this could be an indicator of **substandard or adulterated products**. Some sellers may use **false reviews** to tricking you into buying fake, defective, and/or dangerous products.



Buying fakes puts you and your family at risk

Legal implications for everyone involved

Do you know who is getting your money?

It is **illegal** to purchase counterfeit goods. However, many people don't realize that the creation of counterfeits can involve **forced labor, human trafficking**, or support other **criminal enterprises**, in addition to **putting your own family at risk**.



Protect yourself and don't support criminal enterprises

If you suspect a foreign vendor is offering adulterated or counterfeit merchandise, please report it to the Department of Homeland Security through our public [e-Allegations](#) and [HSI Tips](#) websites.