

COVID-19 vaccine scammers proliferating on the 'dark web'

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met," Ostrowski said.

As far as he can tell, none of the sellers actually has COVID-19 vaccines, *CBS News* reported. In December, INTERPOL warned [law enforcement](#) in 194 countries about organized crime groups targeting COVID-19 vaccines, both physically and online.

More information: [CBS News Article](#)

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Online COVID-19 vaccine scams are becoming more widespread, security experts warn.

In the last six weeks, there has been a sharp rise in the number of COVID-19 [vaccine](#) ads on the "[dark web](#)"—which connects unidentified buyers with anonymous sellers—and the asking prices have doubled or even quadrupled, Mark Ostrowski, head of engineering for the cybersecurity company Check Point, told *CBS News*.

Searches conducted by his team revealed a wide range of offers, including a deal of 14 doses for \$300—or \$200 below the original \$500 price—that came with a promise of a 100 percent refund if the doses did not arrive. Another seller offered a bulk discount of 10,000 bottles of vaccine for \$30,000, and another was asking \$1,500 for four doses of a "Chinese vaccine."

Ostrowski's team even sent a Bitcoin payment to one seller to see what would happen. "Our expectations were low, and, of course, they weren't

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