

## **Protect Yourself from Holiday Fraud**

The holiday season is a bustling time for shopping, both in stores and online. Unfortunately, this surge in transactions also creates more opportunities for fraudsters. Last year, the peak of fraudulent activity occurred on December 18th, coinciding with last-minute shopping when people are often less vigilant.

Fraud during the holidays isn't limited to stolen credit cards. All types of fraud see an uptick in November, December, and January. Fraudsters target financial accounts, including FSAs, HRAs, and HSAs, attempting to change account details and make unauthorized claims and transactions. While it's impossible to eliminate all risks, there are measures you can take to help protect your accounts:

### **Stay Alert with Notifications**

Make sure you've opted in to all available communications, both mobile and email. If you notice changes in your account data followed by a request for an outbound payment, report it immediately.

### **Act Quickly**

If you spot any suspicious activity, act immediately to correct or remove false information from your account. Quick action can prevent unauthorized payments and help recover funds if a payment has already been made.

### **Enhance Security Features**

Consider using additional fraud prevention tools, such as delaying direct deposits and bill payments after changing your email or phone number, and setting limits on distributions.

### **Keep Informed**

Treat the risk management procedures for your consumer-driven healthcare accounts with the same importance as your bank's procedures. Regularly update your login credentials and verify your contact information (email, phone, address, and direct deposit details) to keep your account details current.

Stay safe and enjoy a fraud-free holiday season!