

# TAWAS AREA LODGE NO. 2525

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## Members All...

It is unfortunate that we once again had to close our doors, but with the numbers again on the rise and hospitals becoming overcrowded worse than last time around, it is hopefully a corrective action for the situation our world is facing.

The current shutdown is supposed to be three weeks, but we will see how that turns out this time around.

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Thanksgiving. At the time of writing this, we have planned for a carry-out option for burger night on Thursday, December 3rd, with discussion on possibly every Thursday should this thing get extended again. Your continued support is appreciated as this has been a very trying year for so many.

We are hoping to collect some items for the local homeless shelter on our burger night December 3rd. Items such as coats, hats, gloves, as well as toiletries and bottled water are needed. If you're in a position to be able to help, order a few burgers and drop off some donations. Collections will be taken outside the lodge on the porch.

As previously mentioned, this year's Christmas party will not be held. Have a Merry Christmas and I pray we all stay happy and healthy. Remember to wash your hands, cover your cough and please stay home if you're not feeling well.

In Elkdom,  
Raymond Bruning II, ER

## STAY INFORMED

# Texting Scam Warning From IRS

In IR-2020-249, the IRS warned taxpayers about a new text message scam. The scam uses a text message to attempt to trick taxpayers into giving bank account information to the scammers. Taxpayers are told they must input bank account information in order to collect a promised \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that it will not text them to ask for bank account information in order to make an Economic Impact Payment.

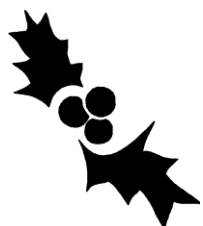
IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig stated, "Criminals are relentlessly using COVID-19 and Economic Impact Payments as cover to try to trick taxpayers out of their money or identities. This scam is a new twist on those we've been seeing much of the year. We urge people to remain alert to these types of scams."

The scam message states the following: "You have received a direct deposit of \$1,200 from COVID-19 TREAS FUND. Further action is required to accept this payment into your account. Continue here to accept this payment." The text then has a link to a web address.

The web address leads to a fraudulent website that claims to be the IRS' "Get My Payment" site. Taxpayers who access the fraudulent site are asked to enter personal and financial account information. This information is then used by fraudsters to steal identities and financial resources.

What should a person do if he or she receives this scam text? The IRS urges you to take a screen shot of the text message and email it to [phishing@IRS.gov](mailto:phishing@IRS.gov). It also is helpful if you include the date and time for the message, a number that appeared on your Caller ID and the number of your cell phone.

**Editor's Note:** This scam is effective because there has been extensive media coverage of the negotiations between the Department of Treasury and the Speaker of the House on a new stimulus bill. While the bill has not passed, the negotiations are ongoing. The level of press and media attention may lead some individuals to conclude that a second stimulus payment is coming. This scam attempts to trap these vulnerable individuals and acquire their financial information.



*Merry Christmas  
to one and all!*

