

8 ways a virus warning popup is fake

Close the page. Do not call. Do not pay with gift cards.

1. Full-screen scare that says call this number
2. Locks the browser tab so Back does nothing
3. A countdown clock (theater, not Windows Security)
4. Grammar and logos do not match Microsoft
5. Address bar is not [microsoft.com](https://microsoft.com/support) / support.microsoft.com
6. Asks for gift cards or remote-access software
7. Task Manager (Ctrl+Shift+Esc) can end the browser
8. A real warning lives in the Windows Security app

FTC: consumer.ftc.gov How to spot, avoid, and report tech support scams

Report: reportfraud.ftc.gov

Official video: [FTCvideos - How scammers pretend to fix your computer](#)

CyberGuardLab.com key points • August 21, 2026