

COVID-19 Vaccine Operations Security Advisory

March 2021

Attention: COVID-19 Vaccine Healthcare Partners

Current Threat Tracking: Cyber Security, Fraudulent Activity, Potential Supply Chain Disruption

This Security Advisory emphasizes new resources for communication, cyber, emergency management/law enforcement and supply chain. To review most recent resources for energy, transportation, and water, please see the February edition [here](#) (PDF). The purpose of these resources is to support your facility planning with a focus on critical infrastructure functions.

Communication / Cyber
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Webinar on 4/21/2021 - Protecting Hospitals Against Advanced Cyber Threats: CIS Malicious Domain Blocking & Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Protecting Hospitals Against Advanced Cyber Threats: CIS Malicious Domain Blocking & Reporting (cisecurity.org) - Feds Seize Fraudulent COVID-19 Vaccine, Pharmacy, Pfizer Websites (healthitsecurity.com) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Multiple fraudulent COVID-19 vaccine, pharmacy, and other pandemic-related websites have been taken down, because of a federal government enforcement effort to combat fraud schemes and attacks across the US, the Department of Justice recently announced. (https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-takes-action-against-covid-19-fraud) ❖ If you encounter any potential fraudulent websites please email the WA State Fusion Center intake@wsfc.wa.gov - FBI Public Service Announcement: If You Make or Buy a Fake COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, You Endanger Yourself and Those Around You, and You Are Breaking the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) If You Make or Buy a Fake COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, You Endanger Yourself and Those Around You, and You Are Breaking the Law - Report: Healthcare haunted by account security SC Media (scmagazine.com) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Enterprises were more likely to have 10,000 or more ghost accounts than to have fewer than 1,000, according to the study (22% of firms to 21% of firms respectively). And they were around twice as likely to have 1,500 accounts that never expire, versus fewer than 500 (43% to 23%). - CLOP (ransomware variant) Poses ongoing risk to HPH Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/clop-poses-ongoing-risk-to-hph-organizations.pdf

- In December 2020, CLOP operators discovered multiple zero-day vulnerabilities affecting the Accellion File Transfer Appliance (FTA) product and began targeting its users. CLOP should be treated the same as any other ransomware/extortion cybercrime group when it comes to safeguarding against their attacks. Mitigations for the HPH sector can be found at the end of the report.
- **HHS HC3 – Cyberthreats to Biotechnology**
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/hph-cyberthreats-to-biotechnology.pdf>
- **HHS HC3 - 2021 Forecast: The Next Year of Healthcare Cybersecurity**
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-hph-cybersecurity-forecast.pdf>

Emergency Management/Law Enforcement

- [OSAC - Dutch COVID Testing Center Targeted Weeks Before Parliamentary Elections - 04Mar21 \(U\)](#)
- [FBI - Improperly Discarded COVID-19 Vaccines Could be Exploited to Commit Fraud - 03Mar21 \(U-TLP GREEN\)](#)
- If you believe your organization has received counterfeit Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), please contact [FBI Seattle](#).
- All state, local, tribal, and private sector partners are encouraged to report any threats or suspicious activity related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution to local law enforcement agencies, as well as the **Washington State Fusion Center (WSFC)** at **1-877-843-9522**, or **e-mail: intake@wsfc.wa.gov**.
- For information regarding threats to COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Washington go to: **HSIN Washington Infrastructure Protection (WA-IP) > [COVID-19 Information](#)**
 - [To request a HSIN membership, please send your full name, agency, title/position, and official e-mail to \[webmaster@wsfc.wa.gov\]\(mailto:webmaster@wsfc.wa.gov\).](#)

Supply Chain

- **Suez Canal and supply chain impacts - Ship may be free, but experts warn the supply chain impact could last months**
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/03/29/suez-canal-is-moving-but-the-supply-chain-impact-could-last-months.html>
- **Walmart, H&M among retailers in US most exposed to Suez Canal disruptions**
 - https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/suez-canal-ever-given-europe-imports-asia-supply-chains/597623/?utm_content=ad-EDIT_NOTE&utm_term=30202&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-04-01%20Supply%20Chain%20Dive%20%5Bissue:33372%5D

Additional Federal Resources

- [FEMA - Vaccine Information and Resources Guide - 19Mar21 \(U\)](#)