

OFFICE of INTELLIGENCE and ANALYSIS

INTELLIGENCE IN FOCUS

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ECONOMIC SECURITY

(U//FOUO) Low Threat to COVID-19 Vaccine Shipments in Near Term

(U//FOUO) We assess that the most likely threat to COVID-19 vaccine shipments over the next six months comes from US trade partners, some of which might nationalize components of the COVID-19 vaccine production process abroad or attempt to intercept shipments in their countries bound for the United States. We have low confidence in this judgment because it is based on limited information about foreign actors' intentions and capabilities. We lack reporting that criminal or terrorist actors are planning to target COVID-19 vaccine shipments.

- (U//FOUO) Last month, a US pharmaceutical company identified social media posts by a
 nationalist party in Italy advocating the nationalization of vaccines manufactured in Italy,
 potentially to include intercepting shipments bound for the United States, according to
 DHS reporting. Italy is one of four European countries participating in the Inclusive
 Vaccines Alliance, which has lobbied for COVID-19 vaccines to be manufactured in
 Europe, according to open-source information.
- (*U//FOUO*) In the spring, as the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic began spreading across the globe, India restricted exports of at least 26 active pharmaceutical ingredients, according to industry and news sources, demonstrating its willingness to use trade measures to prioritize national requirements.

(U//FOUO) Within the United States, we assess that criminal, terrorist, and state-backed actors would be unable to significantly disrupt COVID-19 vaccine shipments. We base this judgment on security precautions taken by logistics and pharmaceutical companies, including their extensive partnership with public-sector organizations.

- (U) One of the world's leading cargo companies, which expects to transport 16 billion
 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine globally, is increasing security around its US and
 international facilities by restricting access to pharmaceutical zones and adding security
 fencing, 24/7 CCTV coverage, and intrusion alarm systems, according to Western press
 reporting. Pharmaceutical companies and hospitals are also incorporating heightened
 counter-theft measures like GPS tracking and other verification measures to prevent theft
 of COVID-19 vaccines, according to the same source.
- (*U*) An industry association for manufacturing, transportation, and security stakeholders has developed an incident database that will allow members to identify details and trends about thefts of pharmaceuticals shipments, which will enable transportation companies to avoid high-risk areas and delivery routes, according to an industry news source.

(U) Prepared by the Economic Security Mission Center. Coordinated within the DHS Intelligence Enterprise (CBP, CETC, CIMC, CTMC, CWMD, FOD, ICE, TSA, USCG) and the FBI. For questions, contact DHS-SPS-RFI@hq.dhs.gov.

(U) Multiple US Government organizations, including the US Army and Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention, will support efforts to track shipments of COVID-19
vaccines within the United States, according to their public statements. As part of
Operation Warp Speed, the US Government's initiative to jumpstart COVID-19
production, the FBI, CISA, and USMS will also be involved in protecting the physical and
cyber security of organizations involved in COVID-19 vaccine distribution, according to
industry and US Government information.

(U//FOUO) Indicators of Terrorist or Criminal Intent to Disrupt COVID-19 Vaccine Shipments

(*U*//*FOUO*) Several indicators would suggest a criminal or terrorist posture may be trying to disrupt COVID-19 vaccine shipments:

- (*U*) Physical surveillance of pharmaceutical facilities or transportation hubs like airports through conventional methods or UAVs;
- (*U*) Attempts to gain cyber access to logistics centers and vaccine transportation routes;
- (*U*) Recruitment of individuals with access to transportation facilities;
- (*U*) Increase in the percentage of applicants for transportation facility jobs who have derogatory backgrounds; and
- (*U*) Terrorist publications or social media posts that advocate attacks on COVID-19 vaccine shipments.

Source, Reference, and Dissemination Information					
Source Summary Statement	(U//FOUO) We have low confidence in our judgment about the threat to COVID-19 vaccine shipments in the near term. We would have higher confidence with additional or classified information about threats to COVID-19 vaccine supply chains. We base our assessment on US Government reporting and open-source information from credible Western news sources and pharmaceutical and transportation industry publications.				
Reporting Suspicious Activity	(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx.				
Dissemination	(U) Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities and private sector security partners.				
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CLASSIFICATION:



Office of Intelligence and Analysis

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2. What is the highest level of intelligence information that you receive?									
3. Please complete the following sentence: "I focus most of my time on:"									
4. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:									
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5. How do you plan to use this p	product in sup	port of your mis	sion? (Chec	k all that apply.)					
 Drive planning and preparedness efforts, training, and/or emergency response operations Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats Share with partners Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel) Reprioritize organizational focus Author or adjust policies and guidelines To further understand your response to question #5, please 			 Initiate a law enforcement investigation Intiate your own regional-specific analysis Intiate your own topic-specific analysis Develop long-term homeland security strategies Do not plan to use Other: 						
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8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements?									
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This product provided me with intinformation I did not find elsewher									
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