



IT Security



Supply Chain



OT Security



Insider Threat



Physical Security



Interoperable Communications

CISA INSIGHTS



DEFEND TODAY,
SECURE TOMORROW

Physical Security for Cold Storage Locations

December 2020

THE THREAT AND HOW TO THINK ABOUT IT

As America prepares for distribution of coronavirus vaccine, the security and integrity of facilities that will receive, house, and distribute COVID-19 vaccines has come into focus. Supply chain and cold chain disruptions can have an adverse impact on the ability for the U.S. to efficiently and effectively distribute critical COVID vaccines.

Criminal and nation-state-based actors are actively attacking organizations involved in COVID-19 vaccine delivery efforts. These threats exist at an industry level and we want to be proactive in helping owner/operators mitigate any possible incidents. Any disruption to the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines may impact public health, the economy, and the U.S.'s international reputation.

PROTECT YOURSELF

To assist in the potential mitigation of these threats, CISA is providing a physical security checklist for private sector entities, cold storage facility owners/operators, and state/local government officials who will participate in the handling and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine related materials (i.e., kits, PPE). Use of the checklist is not a requirement, nor is the checklist all encompassing. Rather, the checklist is designed as a guide to trigger self-evaluation and self-assessment of your defensive posture. All sections of the checklist may not apply to all stakeholders; focus on areas that are applicable to your operations.

Physical Security

- Limit access points going onto property and into buildings.
- Encourage employees to report unusual items/persons.
- Be aware of potential insiders who could pose a threat to the security of the storage facility.
- Develop an Emergency Action for each critical point in the cold storage chain.

www.cisa.gov/publication/pathway-violence-fact-sheet

www.cisa.gov/publication/unattended-vs-suspicious-item-postcard-and-poster

www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something

www.cisa.gov/publication/securing-soft-targets-and-crowded-places-resources

www.cisa.gov/publication/critical-manufacturing-sector-security-guide

Personnel Security

- Recommend storage facilities review their state and local emergency contact lists.
- Recommend storage facilities and vaccine-related transport companies review their physical security plans.
- Ensure only properly credentialed and authorized personnel have access to the property and storage areas.
- Provide a process for employees to report potential insider threats.

www.cisa.gov/insider-threat-mitigation

[www.dni.gov/files/NCSC/documents/nittf/Insider-Threat-Guide-2017-one-page-view\(032618\).pdf](http://www.dni.gov/files/NCSC/documents/nittf/Insider-Threat-Guide-2017-one-page-view(032618).pdf)

Additional Resources

- Office for Bombing Prevention Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Risk Mitigation Training
www.cisa.gov/publication/bombing-prevention-training-fact-sheet
- Office for Bombing Prevention Awareness Products Fact Sheet
www.cisa.gov/publication/awareness-products-fact-sheet

CISA'S ROLE AS THE NATION'S RISK ADVISOR

As the nation's risk advisor, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) leads the nation's efforts to ensure the cybersecurity, physical security, and resilience of our critical infrastructure. CISA works with partners across government and industry to defend against today's threats and collaborates to build more secure and resilient infrastructure for the future.

Please visit the [CISA COVID-19 Resource Page](#) for more information. Victims of cold storage attacks should report it immediately to CISA at Central@CISA.DHS.GOV, your local [FBI Field Office](#) or [Secret Service Field Office](#). Federal and state assistance is also available through [State Homeland Security Advisors and Emergency Management agencies](#), or the [CISA Regional Offices, Protective Security Advisors \(PSAs\), and Cyber Security Advisors \(CSAs\)](#).