



Healthcare and Public Health Sector Critical Infrastructure Highlight- Edition II

Critical Functions & Security of the Health Sector



As recognition of [National Infrastructure Security Month](#) continues, the ASPR Division of Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) is also continuing to provide a weekly "Critical Infrastructure Highlight" throughout November. This week's Highlight focuses on critical functions of the health sector. Below you can find a summary of Monday's session of the Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) Sector 2020 Fall Virtual Engagement Series - *Critical Functions of the Health Sector that includes an Unclassified Threat Briefing* and resources related to preparing and protecting your organization for enabling the continuity of critical functions of the Health Sector.

2020 Fall Virtual Engagement Series: Critical Functions & Security of the Health Sector

The Fall Virtual Engagement Series kicked off with a briefing on the critical functions of the health sector. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) National Risk Management Center (NRMC) briefed on the importance of the 55 Critical Functions and the development of the next iteration of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), which will implement a system-based approach to risk. The NRMC is looking to the HPH sector, and others, to identify the criticality of the different functions in the HPH sector, as well as the interdependent functions that other sectors might support.

Additionally, CISA briefed on its work of bridging the gap between government and industry. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided insight on what vulnerabilities exist between government and industry, but it has also presented opportunities to address resulting issues with fundamental changes in how government and partners perform and react, which will be beneficial for the future of healthcare. The CISA brief also discussed the National Critical Function (NCF) framework, which highlights the cross-sector nature of critical infrastructure. This framework focuses on key assets, systems, and networks that support the NCF, backed by the critical technologies and dependencies that enable them.

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office discussed biodefense and biosecurity, and how they apply to the health sector. Health sector leadership and collaboration were highlighted as a critical component in maintaining the infrastructure of biodefense and biosecurity, with emphasis on using an integrated multiagency response.

Lastly, CISA Intel provided an unclassified threat brief focused on the HPH sector. A high-level understanding of threats were reviewed in addition to best practices for sectors dealing with threats. Awareness and a continued partnership were highlighted as a key strategy for mitigating threats.

Additional Resources

National Risk Management Center (NRMC) Website: Download and share outreach materials, information, and guides from the NRMC website to enhance critical infrastructure security and resilience.

National Critical Functions Set: These 55 functions of government and the private sector are so vital to the United States that their disruption, corruption, or dysfunction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.

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This email has been prepared by the HHS ASPR Division of Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) for its Healthcare and Public Health Sector and Government Coordinating Council Partners

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