Summary of Conclusions – ESF-14 Cross-Sector Business & Infrastructure Conference Call

Opening Comments

- Thank you for joining the call
- Important for us to level-set where we are regarding COVID-19
- Infrastructure concerns, commodities shortages, Critical workers, etc.
- HSIN is another place to review resources
- NBEOC is another location for available information
- Addressing more of the infrastructure concerns
- Media requested to disconnect and contact CISA EA for questions or requesting information
- CISA.Gov/coronavirus will be a one stop shopping for resources. Attempt to provide decision support
- Medical trends provided

Situation Update

- Global Cases – 1,353,361 (+73,639) cases with 79,235 (+6,621) across 211 (+1) countries/territories
- U.S. Cases – 430,091 (+32,518) cases across all 50 states, DC, Guam, PR, CNMI, and USVI with 14,794 (+1,900) deaths
- Cases are still accelerating across the US
- On Friday CDC issued general guidance for cloth masks for general public’s use to help slow the spread and flatten the curve
- Released CIW and First Responders guidance. Available at CDC or CISA web-pages
- Joint Activity alert with the UK was released – exploitation of cyber actors for COVID-19

ESF-14 Update

- Working key issues
- Export restrictions – trying to get clarification on memo regarding export restrictions. Intercompany transfer of commodities for health care sector in PR is of particular interest
- Conducted a call with U.S. Chamber of Commerce – invite participants to join future calls
- Logistics questions will be referred to NBEOC
- Non-medical side of PPE requirements/requests – offer partners the type of information to be prepared to provide would include exact number of PPE on hand and what is needed. Is there a plan for use of the PPE on hand and those being requested? How long current inventory will last, possible conservation efforts, and why specific PPE is requested or if there is an alternative available. Any regulatory requirement that restricts the type of PPE. If so, CISA may work to see if a waiver could be an option to allow for alternate solutions.

NBEOC

- Issue of the day - drawing clarity around temporary rule to allocate certain scarce materials
- CBP Ops conversation – companies concerned about PPE within own network; as long as Letter Out of Station saying using for own services, there really should not be a disruption
- The Unified Coordination Group met on the issue this afternoon. Still working through practical implementation of the temporary rule
- FEAM is not confiscating PPE. Working to see what requirements are across sectors

CISA CAT

- Continue to see interest in ECIWG as well as same questions regarding the guidance
- Appreciate everyone continuing to funnel in information and feedback to the CISA CAT inbox
- 3,500 messages to the CISA CAT inbox
Q&A
Question:
• Can the paper supply chain (paper towels, toilet paper) get more volume at local stores like Walmart?
Answer:
• Looking at supply chain for about 2 months. Raw materials are not the problem. The extreme demand is the issue. People buying a lot of additional products and hoarding going on.
• Typically, would use at home as what you would normally use at the office. It may take a bit more time for things to catch up.
• Seeing the same thing in food supply. Shifting is going on within the supply chains due to people more at home than at work.

Question:
• Describe how the process works for cross border shipments and facilitation between FEMA and CBP regarding the Letter Out of Station?
Answer:
• Reiterated what was stated prior regarding Letter Out of Station. Pretty much says not for sale and for internal use and specifies the use.
• Can’t speak to specific process because do not have it readily available. Will provide through the various channels. CISA is looking to keep things moving and not slow things down.

Question:
• Notified today from distributor that factory in CA has told them that FEMA in CA has taken over all capacity until further notice and the company’s order was cancelled. The order was for commercially available fabric face coverings for CIWs.
Answer:
• Requested company name and industry.
• Ask to see the specifics and details on the situation. Request it be sent to CISA CAT inbox (email provided to caller) and include ESF-14 inbox (email provided to caller).
• Trying to make this easier for those that engage with us. CISA Dir Krebs explained to participants where to send emails to CISA on the CISA.gov site.

Question:
• Ship PPE to DoD oversees installations. Is PPE shipped to an overseas DoD installation automatically exempt or should use Letter Out of Station?
Answer:
• Recommend do a letter on company letter head and CBP should be able to facilitate.

Question:
• Over last 24 hours, 3 major shipments of PPE for front line employees were seized. Now having issues from various cities because our garage truck drivers don’t have masks and will get shut down. Some states saying if interacting with public must have mask. Seeking clarification around the letter.
Answer:
• Letter from company attests to CBP that items are for company use and not for the market.
• If there is a specific instance, item, location that can be sited, please pass to NBEOC and partners for possible investigation and resolution.

Question:
• Any indication when ECIWG version 3.0 will be published and press release?
Answer:
• Internal finalization is on-going. End of the week or early next week should expect to see. Would likely issue a press statement when released through normal channels.

Question:
• Should someone asking information regarding grace period extension on flood insurance policies be directed to CISA.gov?
Answer:
• FEMA.gov has latest on flood insurance extension.
Question:
• Is it possible to have access to faster testing and results for critical workers that perform critical tasks within the power sector located within close proximity of hot spots?

Answer:
• Priorities are set locally. Would need to refer to state emergency managers.
• CISA.gov site has CDC guidance on this issue as well.

Question:
• Is anything being done to address bad actors in the cybersecurity space, particularly for healthcare sector?

Answer:
• Focused on cyber side of this issue.
• Partnering with public/private organizations with efforts.
• International effort underway to deal with bad actors.
• Requests for additional information may be sent to CISA.gov.

Question:
• A U.S. company, listed as CI, contracts with the DoD and has a supplier in Mexico that is not recognized by the Mexican government as a CI listed company.

Answer:
• Daily conversations taking place with Dept of State channels. Trying to ensure the government officials that set the policies receive the guidance that exists, such as the ECIWG, as an effort to have alignment.
• Question will be directed to Dept State LNO.

Question:
• Would DHS be able to flag and expedite a shipment of hand sanitizer that was requested from a customer partner in Canada?

Answer:
• American Distillers Assoc. website has a list of all distilleries that have converted to making hand sanitizer. Most are local to many communities.
• Request will be submitted with CISA CAT for processing.

Question:
• Are folks having conversations to manage COVID-19 and hurricanes, as hurricane season approaches?

Answer:
• Multiple natural hazards are coming into season in addition to hurricanes. Yes, multiple requirements for capability to execute against multiple disasters is being discussed and planned.
• Contact on CISA.gov to be looped into some of the efforts being planned by and with the partners.

Question:
• Any guidance on a-symptomatic workers?

Answer:
• Hope to pull out requirements for the CI sector.
• Looking at prioritization schemas for PPE distribution as get outside of the medical space.
• Will have an update soon.

Question:
• Challenging for companies within the energy and communications sector located in OR to determine their burn rates because they are using PPE sparingly or not using at all because they are out. How is PPE allocation determined once issued to health care workers? Is there a plan in place for allocation of PPE for CI such as energy and communication sectors?

Answer:
• Looking at the right model for PPE demand is the goal of asking for the burn rate.
• Allocation – FEMA is not going to be giving PPE to critical infrastructure. Sensitive to demand of PPE to all sectors. Supporting healthcare infrastructure and trying to work across all sectors concerns is a goal.
• It is recommended that companies get the data ready because this is a new situation. Encourage you and partners to get the data ready in 2 cut lines. 1 – personnel in close proximity due to nature of their operations (testing and PPE to keep them in place), 2 – workers that are required for maintenance of critical equipment.
• The PPE situation will loosen up.
• Plug into the relevant state so they know your emergency status.
Closing Comments
- Recording available later this evening and can be reviewed on HSIN
- All references made today can be found on CISA.gov/coronavirus (frequently requested information section/tab)
- Thanks for your participation and questions as we sort all these issues out
- Next call will be on next Tuesday