

INSIGHT REPORT HIGHLIGHT

Security implications of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout

April 2021



As COVID-19 vaccines are rolled out globally, immunisation campaigns will shape not only the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also a variety of security risks, including misinformation, social unrest and crime.

This Insight Report Highlight provides an overview of the key security implications of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout observed by our security experts as well as our recommendations to protect your people from health & security threats.

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This extract is taken from our detailed Security Insight Report, exclusively available to International SOS premium intelligence subscribers. The full report contains further assessments by theme and location, and more detailed recommendations.



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KEY JUDGEMENTS

- The vaccine rollout will continue to shape not only the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also a variety of security risks, including misinformation, social unrest and crime.
- The dissemination of misinformation and disinformation will hinder the effectiveness of immunisation programmes, and, in some locations, prompt violent attacks on related infrastructure and organisations.
- Opposition to vaccines and perceived government mismanagement of vaccine programmes will fuel unrest in the coming months.
- Online scams will continue to increase, with criminals taking advantage of high demand for vaccines. The emergence of a black market for counterfeit vaccines and documentation, as well as cargo theft, will remain key concerns for the authorities and organisations alike.
- Despite the vaccine rollout, the process of returning to normal operations will remain protracted. Various movement and travel restrictions will persist throughout 2021. Maintain agile business operations and ensure a clear line of communication to your workforce in order to combat the impact of misinformation and related protests and crime.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGERS

Below are some of our recommendations to ensure your organisation's business continuity against security implications of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout:

- Ensure that your workforce has access to verified, apolitical and expert input on the security and medical concerns relating to the vaccine rollout, and that organisational decisions are made on this basis.
- Closely monitor the spread of conspiracy theories and assess whether this raises additional risks for your workforce depending on their specific profiles and/or occupation. Consider providing additional support or training for those of your workforce who may be more vulnerable in specific environments as a result.
- Reconfirm travel policies and ensure they align with local and international regulations. If requiring COVID-19 tests or vaccination certificates from contractors or those of your workforce returning to the office, implement a vetting process to ensure the validity of such documents.
- Retain agile business operations and decision-making, noting that vaccine rollouts and timelines will differ across the world, and that some restrictions will persist throughout the year.
- Monitor relevant security triggers in key locations, considering your specific organisation profile, as well as your workforce's profiles.



The Insight Report series provides our experts' insights and advice on events or situations which may require our clients' attention due to their potential impact on the risk environment. It covers a variety of themes under Global Insight, Natural Disasters and Climate Insight, Geopolitical Insight, Elections Insight, Crisis Insight, Conflict & Terrorism Insight and Country Profile Insight.

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Enquiries

For further information about the assessments or recommendations in this report and/or to learn how we can support your organisation to build a resilient workforce, please contact us via the enquiry form:

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