



Information Alert

CIKR-05-2020

March 23, 2020

(U) FAKE COVID-19 TEST KITS CONTAINING TOXIC SUBSTANCES

(U//FOUO) The Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) is providing this Information Alert to inform healthcare professionals about fake COVID-19 test kits containing a substance that is toxic to humans. The PaCIC is requesting any information related to fake COVID-19 test kits, notably those originating from the United Kingdom.

(U//FOUO) Over the weekend hundreds of counterfeit COVID-19 test kits being shipped from London into the United States were seized by United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials.

(U//FOUO) On 03/19/2020, CBP officials at Los Angeles International Airport seized vials filled with a white liquid and labeled "Corona Virus 2019nconv (COVID-19)" and "Virus1 Test Kit."¹ The kits may have contained harmful chemicals with which people were told to rinse their mouths²

(U//FOUO) The suspect was shipping the test kits to a company(ies) in the United States for further shipment to a hospital(s). The suspect was arrested in London by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and United Kingdom officials. It is unknown if test kits other than the ones seized were shipped to locations in the United States.



<https://wgntv.com>



RECOMMENDATIONS

(U//FOUO) Any partners with information regarding fake COVID-19 test kits should contact the PaCIC CIKR Unit at sp-protect@pa.gov or 1-855-772-7768.

(U//FOUO) The healthcare sector and general public should be aware of fraudulent home testing kits for sale either online or in informal direct-to-consumer settings. When procuring testing kits, medications, and supplies, organizations, businesses, and individuals should limit purchases to legitimate suppliers; beware of illegitimate websites.

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The information used in this bulletin is drawn from open sources, DHS open source reporting, FBI and other law enforcement intelligence reports and court filings. State police has high confidence in the information obtained from court documents and those of government agencies. State police has medium confidence in the information obtained from open sources, which includes media reports and Internet websites whose information is credibly sourced and plausible but may contain biases or unintentional inaccuracies. When possible, open source information has been corroborated through other law enforcement and government sources.

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¹ Fake COVID-19 test kits seized at LAX. (2020, March 14). Retrieved 03/23/2020 from <https://wgntv.com/news/coronavirus/fake-covid-19-test-kits-seized-at-lax/>.

² BBC News. (2020, March 21). Coronavirus: Man in court over fake COVID-19 treatment kits. Retrieved 03/23/2020 from <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-51991245>.

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