

Police Scotland

COVID-19 – Local Vaccine Storage Guide (Doctors Surgeries / Care Homes)



Threats

COVID-19 vaccines are now being distributed around Scotland. Careful consideration should be given to security arrangements in place at Doctors surgeries, care homes and any other locations in the local community where vaccines may be stored, just before being administered to patients.

There is currently no information to suggest any specific security threat to Vaccine storage at the above noted locations, in Scotland at this time. Some of the potential threats below may also come from an insider, seeking to utilise their legitimate access to Vaccines, for unauthorised purposes.

Theft	- Of vaccines. This is the most likely threat.
Protest Activity	- Against vaccination process.
Interference	- With vaccines, prior to patient vaccination.
Terrorism	- Attacks on public being vaccinated. Not likely at these locations.

The current threat to the UK from Terrorism is **SEVERE** - an attack is Highly Likely.

Security Guidance

Police Scotland recommend that security measures associated with all vaccination storage at Doctor's surgeries (or similar) and care home premises should be reviewed, with consideration given to the following:

- **External Security**
 - Where premises have a defined perimeter boundary, any gates / barriers in place should be closed, especially when premises are not open to the public.
 - External lighting should be in full working order. It is important that main entrances, delivery areas and car parks are well lit to deter criminal activity.
 - Any vegetation, or other structures within the grounds that provide concealment opportunities, should be cut back or removed to deter criminal activity.
 - Where CCTV exists, ensure that it is in full working order and recording footage clearly. Where possible, ensure CCTV captures clear images of all people entering the premises and vehicles entering the grounds, especially registration numbers. This can assist greatly with any post incident investigations.
- **Building Security.**
 - All external doors should be checked, to ensure that they are securing effectively. Ideally all external should have 5 lever deadlocks fitted or comparable multi point locking systems, as a minimum standard.

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- All opening ground floor windows and those higher up, which are easily accessible by climbing, should be secured with key operated locks. This is important when rooms are empty or the premises closed.
- Keys should never be left in windows or door locks. This makes it easier for criminals to gain entry.
- **Internal Security.**
 - Premises should have a monitored intruder alarm in full working operation, if left empty or un-staffed at any time.
 - Vaccines should not be stored in empty premises without a monitored intruder alarm.
- **Vaccine Security.**
 - Vaccine storage should be within staff only areas which are secured against unauthorised access and out with view from the general public/patients.
 - In addition, vaccines should be behind at least two further effective locked security barriers at all times.
 - Access to vaccines should be restricted to **essential staff only**.
 - Vaccines should not be stored in rooms with external windows, unless robust window protection systems are installed.
 - Vaccines should be checked daily and discrepancies immediately reported.
- **Staff Security Awareness.**
 - All staff in the premises should be made aware of the potential threats above.
 - Staff must follow all security procedures implemented around vaccine storage.
 - Staff should remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity / behaviour within or out with the premises to supervisors, then the Police for further investigation.
 - Staff should wear uniforms or identification and challenge those not doing so.
- **General Security**
 - Media activity. Especially filming around vaccine storage, may compromise security measures implemented. It is not recommended.
 - Social media. All staff must not discuss vaccine storage with friends, family, colleagues and especially not on social media platforms.
 - Ensure premises checked upon arrival and departure, to ensure that it is secure. Staff should not open or close the building alone.
 - Contractors should be escorted when in premises during vaccination activity.
 - Where protest activity occurs outside premises, contact Police immediately.

Further Security Guidance

Police Scotland Crime Prevention Officers, can provide further security guidance if required. For contact with your local Crime Prevention Officers visit:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/> or call **Police Scotland on 101**

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