

## Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2020

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

**Critical**

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “**CRITICAL**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “**CRITICAL**” means that an event is underway or expected imminently.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:

**Elevated**

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “**ELEVATED**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “**ELEVATED**” means FB-ISAO is not aware of any specific or targeted cyber threats, but there is a concern that the general risk of cyber threat activity is higher than normal.

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# FB-ISAO Newsletter

## Response to March 2020 Member Survey

Dear Members, thank you for responding to our information sharing survey in March 2020. Your feedback was valuable in helping us understand what your information sharing needs are as a community. Based on your responses, we were able to gather many interesting ideas, some which will be shared here.

### Background on FB-ISAO and Information Sharing Organizations

Typically, when information sharing organizations are formed (FB-ISAO was established in June 2018), the first phase involves one-way information sharing. This means the organization will act as a hub and disseminate to and share information with members. This method establishes the organization’s legitimacy and starts to build credibility and earn trust. Trust is the foundation of information sharing groups. The organization has to trust that its members will adhere to established information sharing protocols (e.g., <https://www.us-cert.gov/tlp> for use with disseminated information.) Likewise, members have to trust that the organization will maintain responsible handling of all information that it is entrusted with. Furthermore, an effective ISAO does not simply operate as a hub of information but facilitates trusted peer-to-peer relationships and collaboration between members. At the end of 2018, FB-ISAO made significant strides in establishing legitimacy, earning trust, and engaging the community of faith. We looked forward to continuing that momentum in 2019 - see this [post](#).



### FB-ISAO Today

As we continue our maturity trajectory, it is gratifying to see increased adoption of collaboration capabilities. Please refer to [this post for information](#).

**Slack Workspace for Collaboration.** Collaboration via Slack is where our information sharing and collaboration mission is realized. Members work together to share ideas, best practices, mentor each other, and share information to reduce risk and build resilience.

**Working Groups.** We also formed our first working group, the Business Resilience Group (BRG). See this post on [working groups](#). Since then, several other working groups have formed.

**Incident Reporting.** In December of 2019, we introduced an Incident Reporting capability. The Incident Report provides a method for members to report notable incidents and events and request further assistance if desired. FB-ISAO analysts analyze and synthesize the reports while adhering to the established trust protocols and share relevant information with the community as appropriate. An example of this kind of reporting was the security advisory issued on 15 April about “Clergy Impersonation/Imposter Scams.”

**Information Sharing Communities.** These [private channels](#) are for members with interests in specific geographic areas to easily collaborate and share information with one another. [Continue reading...](#)

## FB-ISAO Advisory Board

[Get to Know the Board of Advisors](#)

### Contact Us

Company Name

FB-ISAO

Email

[Info@faithbased-isao.org](mailto:Info@faithbased-isao.org)

Website

[www.faithbased-isao.org](http://www.faithbased-isao.org)

### Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

[How to join...](#)

### Not Yet on FB-ISAO Slack - You Need to Be!

[Write to membership](#)

### Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

<a href="#">Webinar: Hostile Event Preparedness</a>	May 14 2020
<a href="#">New Member On-Boarding</a>	June 9 2020 (and on-going)
Webinar: How to Write an "EAP"	June 2020
Webinar: Business Continuity	July 2020
<a href="#">Virginia Workshops</a>	Postponed. Check back!

## Pandemic Recovery Report

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over and indications are that this first wave of infections will not be the last. As the Nation faces the daunting task of re-opening government, businesses, schools and houses of worship, we must all work together to address the re-opening of facilities safely. Further, the guidelines that we establish today should be able to carry us through a second wave of infections, whether that second wave causes another round of closings or not.

The FB-ISAO Preparedness Group has spun-off a Pandemic Recovery Group. The group has been conversing, via FB-ISAO Slack, to share guidelines, considerations and resources for re-opening of facilities. The outcome will be a report that will be distributed to FB-ISAO members in the next few weeks.

The Pandemic Recovery Group asked members of other communities to collaborate on the development of the report. A meeting was held on 28 April where members of our Board of Advisors, DHS government representatives and members of the Association of Venue Managers discussed ideas and considerations for the development of the report.

The report, when complete, will be comprised of a checklist segregated by topics such as;

- Reopen / Reentry
- Safety / Security
- Health / Hygiene
- Continuity / After Actions report Considerations

## Spotlight: Faith-Based Schools

In the world of information sharing, K-12 schools have been inadvertently side-stepped. That is not to say that no information sharing has taken place between governmental bodies and schools OR amongst school districts that have established relationships to share best practices. It just means that unlike Critical Infrastructure, schools, like Faith-Based Organizations do not have the designation required by government that puts them at a par with the [energy, health and commercial facilities](#) and other sectors. Yet, schools, like Faith-Based Organizations, fulfill a critical function! They educate our future generations - how much more critical can that be?

Over the next few months, FB-ISAO will do more to provide Faith-Based schools, who are welcome as [members](#) - with information and resources to advance the preparedness, security, and resilience of their organizations. In the meantime, members, who support Faith-Based Schools are encouraged to review this [resource](#).

Faith-Based Higher Education Institutions, such as colleges and universities, are encouraged to check out the [Research & Education Networks Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(REN-ISAC\)](#).