

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

COVID-19 Daily Report

28 May 2020

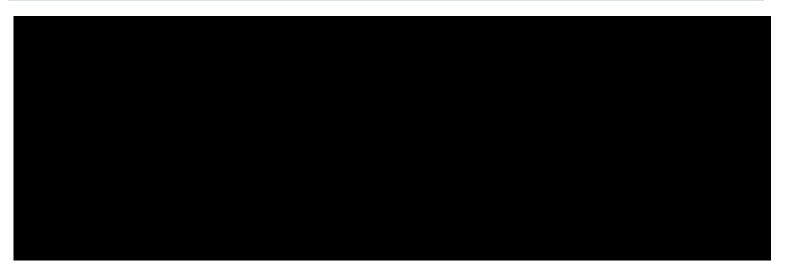
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SINs: NHIAC – 16 | HSEC – 6

(603) 223-3859

NH.IAC@dos.nh.gov

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(U) OUT OF STATE

(U//LES) Not to be shared outside of the Law Enforcement community — Nationwide - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) assesses Israeli-based organized crime syndicates (IBOCSs) very likely are targeting COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, siphoning critical financial support from US small businesses. IBOCSs have defrauded US Government relief programs and manipulated tax documents since at least 2015 to reduce tax liability and conceal money laundering activities, as well as have access to companies and agents, which are necessary to process PPP loan applications. IBOCSs' traditional trade-based money laundering schemes were disrupted by the shutdown of business in response to COVID-19, impacting revenue and leading IBOCSs to seek alternative income streams. The FBI assumes IBOCSs view access to federal COVID-19 relief aid worth the risk of exposure to law enforcement scrutiny. This assessment is made with medium confidence, based on FBI investigations, including reporting from FBI human sources with varying degrees of access and corroboration.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)