



313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 106  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>> <<suffix>>  
<<Address1>>  
<<Address2>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip Code>>

<<Date>> (Format: Month Day,  
Year)

## NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear <<FirstName>> <<LastName>>,

We are writing to inform you of a phishing attack against the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health Service (“DHS”) that may affect the privacy of some of your personally identifiable and/or health information. DHS is taking this incident seriously and we are working and cooperating with law enforcement on this matter.

### **What Happened?**

Between February 19, 2024, and February 20, 2024, DHS experienced a phishing attack. Specifically, a hacker was able to gain log-in credentials of 23 DHS employees through a phishing e-mail. A phishing e-mail tries to trick recipients into giving up important information. In this case, the DHS employees clicked on the link located in the body of the e-mail, thinking that they were accessing a legitimate message from a trustworthy sender.

Due to the ongoing investigation by law enforcement, we were advised to delay notifying you of this incident until now, as public notice may have hindered their investigation.

### **What Information Was Involved?**

The information identified in the potentially compromised e-mail accounts may have included your first and last name, date of birth, home address, phone number(s), e-mail address, medical record number, client identification number, dates of service, and/or medical information (e.g., diagnosis/condition, treatment, test results, medications), and/or health plan information. The information did not include Social Security Numbers (SSN) or financial information.

Each individual may have been impacted differently and not all of the elements listed were present for each individual.

## **What We Are Doing**

DHS has implemented numerous enhancements to reduce our exposure to similar e-mail attacks in the future. Upon discovery of the phishing attack, we acted swiftly to disable the impacted e-mail accounts, reset and re-imaged the user's device(s), blocked websites that were identified as part of the phishing campaign and quarantined all suspicious incoming e-mails. Additionally, awareness notifications were distributed to all DHS workforce members to remind them to be vigilant when reviewing e-mails, especially those including links or attachments. Law enforcement was notified upon discovery of the phishing attack, and they investigated the incident.

We also initiated an administrative review and implemented additional controls to minimize the risk of future phishing attacks against DHS e-mail accounts. Further, we enhanced training to identify and respond to phishing attacks as part of the DHS 'ongoing cyber-security awareness program.

In addition to notifying individuals potentially impacted by this incident, we will notify the California Department of Public Health, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office for Civil Rights, and other agencies as required by law and/or contract.

We are seeking to stay ahead of the rapidly evolving and continuous threats to large data systems. DHS remains vigilant in its efforts to protect confidential information and continues to strengthen its information privacy and security program to implement safeguards to prevent and/or reduce cyber-attacks.

## **What You Can Do**

While DHS cannot confirm that your information has been accessed or misused, we encourage patients to review the content and accuracy of the information in their medical record with their medical provider. Although the information potentially compromised did not contain SSNs or financial information, we have enclosed with this letter some steps you can take to protect your information.

## **For More Information**

We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. We have established a dedicated call center available toll free in the U.S. at 1-866-528-2114, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time (excluding weekends and major U.S. holidays). You may also visit the following website for more information: <https://dhs.lacounty.gov>

We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern this incident has caused.

Sincerely,



Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.  
Director, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT AND FRAUD

### Review and Monitor Your Medical Information, Explanation of Benefits

We encourage you to review your medical record with your medical provider to make sure that the content is correct and accurate. You may also review the Explanation of Benefits' statement(s) that you receive from your health care provider or health plan. If you see any service(s) that you do not believe you received, contact your health care provider or health plan at the telephone number listed on the Explanation of Benefits' statement, or contact your health care provider or health plan and ask them to send you a copy of your statement after each visit.

### Request Credit Reports

The County encourages you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your financial statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. To order your free credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also contact the below three major credit bureaus directly to request a free copy of your credit report:

<b>Equifax</b> P.O. Box 740241 Atlanta, GA 30374 (800) 525-6285 <a href="http://www.Equifax.com">www.Equifax.com</a>	<b>Experian</b> P.O. Box 9532 Allen, TX 75013 (888) 397-3742 <a href="http://www.Experian.com">www.Experian.com</a>	<b>TransUnion</b> P.O. Box 1000 Chester, PA 19022 800-916-8800 <a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a>
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The credit bureaus will ask for a Social Security Number (SSN) and other personal information for identification purposes. Once you contact a credit bureau, you will receive a letter with instructions on how to receive your free credit reports. Review the reports to make sure your personal information, such as, address and SSN are accurate. If there is anything you do not understand, call the credit reporting agency at the telephone number on the report and ask for an explanation.

If you find that your information has been misused, or that an account has been falsely created using your identity, contact the local police department, your bank, and your credit card agencies. You should obtain a copy of the police report in case you need to give copies of the police report to creditors to clear up records. Even if you do not find any signs of fraud on the reports, you should check your credit report every three months for the next year and call the credit bureau numbers above to order reports and keep the fraud alert (described below) in place.

### Request Fraud Alerts

You, or your legal representative, can also have these credit bureaus place a Fraud Alert on your file that alerts creditors to take additional steps to verify your identity before granting credit in your name. Note, however, that because a Fraud Alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures to protect you, it may also delay your ability to obtain credit while the agency verifies your identity. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your Fraud Alert, the others are notified to place Fraud Alerts on your file. Should you wish to place a Fraud Alert, or should you have any questions regarding your credit report, please contact any one of the agencies listed above.

### Request a Security Freeze

You may also place a Security Freeze on your credit reports. A Security Freeze prohibits a credit bureau from releasing any information from your credit report without your written authorization. However, please be advised that placing a Security Freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing, or other services. You will need to place a Security Freeze separately with each of the three major credit bureaus listed below if you wish to place a freeze on all of your credit files. A credit bureau is not allowed to charge you to place, lift, or remove a Security Freeze if you have been a victim of identity theft, and you provide the credit bureau with a valid police report. In all other cases, each credit bureau may charge you a fee to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a Security Freeze. To find out more on how to place a Security Freeze, you can use the following contact information:

**Equifax Security Freeze**

P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
1-888-298-0045

[www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/](http://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/)

**Experian Security Freeze**

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
1-888-397-3742

[www.experian.com/freeze/center.html](http://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html)

**TransUnion Security Freeze**

P.O. Box 160  
Woodlyn, PA 19094  
800-916-8800

[www.transunion.com/credit-freeze](http://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze)

**Additional Information**

You can learn more about identity theft, fraud alerts, and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting the Federal Trade Commission or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580; [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov) ; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

You can also contact the FTC at the information above if you need more information on how to file such a complaint.

**Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to local law enforcement and your State Attorney General.**

Visit the California Office of Privacy Protection for additional information on protection against identity theft:  
<https://oag.ca.gov/privacy>

This document includes an important notice. If you cannot read this attached document, please call (XXX) XXX-XXXX for translation help.

#### TAGALOG

Ang liham na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon. Kung hindi ninyo nababasa ang kalakip na liham, mangyaring tumawag sa 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX upang magkaroon ng tulong sa pagsasalin sa Tagalog/Filipino.

#### RUSSIAN

В этом письме содержится важная информация. Если Вы не можете прочитать прилагаемое письмо, позвоните по номеру 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX, и Вам будут предоставлены услуги перевода на русский язык.

#### KOREAN

이서신에는 중요한 정보가 포함되어 있습니다. 동봉된 서신을 읽으실 수 없으면 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX 로 전화하여 한국어 번역 지원을 받으십시오.

#### ARMENIAN

Այս նամակը պարունակում է կարևոր տեղեկություններ: Եթե ներփակ նամակը չէք կարող կարդալ, ինդրվում է կապվել 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX հեռախոսահամարով, օգնություն ստանալ շայտերն լեզվով:

#### CHINESE

这封信包含了重要信息。如果您无法阅读随附的信件，请致电 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX 寻求广东话翻译援助。  
。這封信包含了重要信息。如果您無法閱讀隨附的信件，請致電 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX 尋求廣東話翻譯援助。  
助。

#### VIETNAMESE

Thư này bao hàm thông tin quan trọng. Nếu quý vị không đọc được thư đính kèm, vui lòng gọi 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX để được giúp đỡ thông dịch trong tiếng Việt.

#### CHINESE

这封信包含了重要信息。如果您无法阅读随附的信件，请致电 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX 寻求普通话翻译援助。  
。這封信包含了重要信息。如果您無法閱讀隨附的信件，請致電 1-XXX- XXX-XXXX 尋求國語翻譯援助

#### IRANIAN/PERSIAN

این نامه حاوی اطلاعات مهمی میباشد. اگر نامه ضمیمه را نمیتوانید بخوانید، لطفاً برای کمک به زبان فارسی با شماره تلفن 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX - یگبسامت د

#### ARABIC

للوصول إلى هذه المراسلة يوتحت إلى تاملعم تمام. إذا لم نكمتمت من قراءة المراسلة المرفقة، يرجى الاتصال إلى 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX - دةعاسم في تمجرتلا إلى لتبیرعلا