

Department of State Hospitals - Atascadero  
10333 El Camino Real  
Atascadero, CA 93423  
[www.dsh.ca.gov](http://www.dsh.ca.gov)



May xx, 2021

Reference #ISO01297

### Notice of Data Breach

**What Happened?** On April 13, 2021, DSH discovered that an employee improperly accessed:

- personal information, including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth, and driver's license numbers of 80 individuals;
- the date of birth and last four digits of the social security numbers of approximately 20 individuals;
- immigration information of 38 individuals; and
- health information related to employment, of approximately 81 individuals who are either employees, former employees, or DSH job applicants who never became DSH employees.

This was discovered during the investigation of the same employee who was found to have improperly accessed approximately:

- 1,415 patient and former patient, and 617 employee or others' names, COVID-19 test results, and health information necessary for tracking COVID-19 on February 25, 2021; and
- the personally identifiable information of approximately 1,735 employees and former employees, and 1,217 DSH job applicants who never became DSH employees.

At this time, DSH has no evidence that there has been any use or attempted use of the information compromised by this incident. DSH is providing this notice so that those individuals potentially affected may be aware of what happened and can take steps to monitor any unusual activity regarding their personal information.

**What information was involved?** The confidential information contained:

38 individuals' name, Alien Registration Number (A-Number) and expiration date, type of visa, and the date of your Certificates of Naturalization;

20 individuals' name, date of birth, and the last four digits of your social security number;

***“Caring Today for a Safe and Healthy Tomorrow”***

80 individuals' name, address, phone number, email address, Driver's License number, and social security number; and

81 employees, former employees, or DSH job applicants' name, address, phone number, email address, date of birth, and dates and general outcome of various health-related tests done for purposes of employment with DSH.

At this time, DSH has no evidence that there has been any use or attempted use of the information compromised by this incident. The investigation is ongoing. If it is determined that more information was accessed than what was provided in this Notice of Data Breach letter, another notification will be provided to the affected individuals within the timeframe provided by law after the discovery that more information was accessed.

**What we are doing:** DSH is investigating the breach and has placed the principal subject of the investigation on administrative leave pending completion of the investigation, is continuing to analyze the electronic network to see whether the employee improperly accessed any other information, and is cooperating with the law enforcement agency in conducting an investigation.

DSH has identified, and is notifying, all individuals whose Protected Health Information (PHI) and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) have been compromised, which is why you are receiving this letter. In addition, DSH has provided this update regarding this breach to the United States Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, the California Office of Information Security, the California Office of Health Information Integrity, the California Highway Patrol, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Attorney General's Office.

**What you can do:** Please keep a copy of this notice for your records for future reference in case you become aware of any unusual activity involving your confidential information.

Additionally, we recommend that you place a fraud alert on your credit files by following the recommended privacy protection steps outlined in the enclosed Breach Help – Consumer Tips from the California Attorney General. You may also contact the three credit bureaus directly and request all three credit reports be sent to you, free of charge, for your review. Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit reports periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly:

Experian (888) 397-3742

Equifax (800) 525-6285

TransUnion (800) 680-7289]

**For More Information:** If you have additional questions about this breach, please contact DSH's call center Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pacific Time, at (844) 227-9333, or visit [https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Breach\\_Notice.html](https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Breach_Notice.html). DSH's website will have this notice and other important information available to you. You may also e-mail us with questions at [breach2021@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:breach2021@dsh.ca.gov). Please do not include your social security number or medical information in an e-mail to DSH.

For information about your medical privacy rights, you may visit the website of the California Department of Justice, Privacy Enforcement and Protection at <https://oag.ca.gov/privacy>.

DSH employees may contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), for support services at [www.eap.calhr.ca.gov](http://www.eap.calhr.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Yamin T. Scardigli, Privacy Officer  
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[https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Breach\\_Notice.html](https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Breach_Notice.html)