



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

## Division of Adult Institutions / Bureau of Health Services

**RE: Personal Health Information**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (“DOC”) became aware of a breach of certain protected health information (“PHI”) of persons in the DOC’s care.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 an employee with the Department of Corrections discovered that location information for those residing at a treatment facility were not masked on three vendor websites which DOC has contracted for canteen orders. Certain information was viewable to the public, specifically your name and the name and address of the treatment facility. The name and treatment facility information were listed and associated with individuals residing in those facilities for the purposes of individuals to purchase and send canteen items to those confined within the facility. No other treatment records or sensitive information about the provision of healthcare or substance use treatment were released. Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which is known as HIPAA, DOC is required to provide you notification about this breach of PHI. If you have resided in one the below treatment facilities during the period between 10/7/2019 to 6/15/2020, you have been identified as an individual affected by this breach.

- Black River Correctional Center
- St. Croix Correctional Center
- Drug Abuse Correctional Center
- Chippewa Valley Treatment Facility
- Wisconsin Resource Center (Treatment)
- Flambeau Correctional Center

The DOC has taken the following steps to protect your personal information:

- DOC notified the vendors of the issue and asked that update their websites to ensure that any information which may reveal the location of a treatment facility be properly masked from the public which was completed and tested.
- Notification of the breach of PHI has been reported to the federal Department of Health and Human Services.
- The DOC will comply with any and all federal and state requirements relating to the disclosed PHI.

The DOC apologizes for any inconvenience this situation may cause; your privacy is very important to us and we will continue to monitor this situation. You may contact us with questions and concerns by addressing a letter to our postal address; PO Box 7925, 3099 East Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53704. ATTN: HIPAA Privacy Officer.

Sincerely,

Crystal Powers  
Health Information Supervisor/HIPAA Privacy Officer