



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

## Division of Adult Institutions / Bureau of Health Services

August 7, 2019

**RE: Personal Health Information**

On July 2, 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (“DOC”) became aware of a breach of certain protected health information (“PHI”) of people in the DOC’s care. We identified the date of the breach as June 24, 2019.

Following an open records request from a journalism fellow at Marquette University, the DOC emailed the requester a spreadsheet disclosing DOC numbers (but **not** your name) and the location of inmates. It was discovered that this spreadsheet included individuals who may have been residing at substance abuse treatment centers as of March 31, 2010 and/or as of March 31, 2019. No other personally identifiable information or information relating to substance use treatment was released.

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

- The data was shared with the requester and one other individual. Both were instructed to permanently delete any and all data that contained PHI.
- The DOC received written confirmation from the requester that the information was permanently deleted. We have no reason to believe there is any ongoing risk of further disclosure of PHI.
- 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; however, we can assure you that this disclosure was mitigated and rectified. Your privacy is very important to us and we will continue to monitor this situation, including an in-depth review of our policies and procedures.

You may contact us with questions and concerns in the following ways: by calling our HIPAA Privacy Officer at (608) 240-5152 between the hours of 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday; sending an email to [crystal.powers@wisconsin.gov](mailto:crystal.powers@wisconsin.gov) or addressing a letter to our postal address; PO Box 7925, 3099 East Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53704.

Sincerely,

Crystal Powers  
Health Information Supervisor/HIPAA Privacy Officer