
 <p>Wyoming Department of Health</p>	<p>401 Hathaway Building • Cheyenne, WY 82002 Phone (307) 777-7656 • 1-866-571-0944 Fax (307) 777-7439 • www.health.wyo.gov</p>	
<p>Michael A. Ceballos Director</p>		<p>Mark Gordon Governor</p>

April 27, 2021

On March 10, 2021, the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) became aware of a breach of protected health information. We discovered that a workforce member exposed approximately 164,010 individuals' health information. Covid and Influenza (flu) test result data was impermissibly disclosed to a third-party, GitHub.com, as early as November 5, 2020, and inadvertently disclosed to unauthorized individuals on GitHub's public site as early as January 8, 2021. Breath alcohol test result data was impermissibly disclosed to GitHub.com and unauthorized individuals on GitHub's public site on March 9, 2021.

The incident involving this information was an inadvertent exposure of 53 files containing COVID-19 and Influenza test data and 1 file containing breath alcohol test results. These files were mistakenly uploaded by a WDH Public Health Division workforce member to private and public GitHub.com repositories. All of the data files were removed from the repositories by March 10, 2021. GitHub.com is an internet-based software development company used for version control and code management while writing code for data models. GitHub.com has privacy and security policies and procedures in place regarding the use of data on their platform. This incident did not result from a compromise of GitHub.com or its system. It was the result of an end user error. The WDH only intended to use this software for code storage and maintenance, not to maintain files containing health information.

The exposed health information included COVID-19 and Influenza test data that was electronically reported to the WDH, including Wyoming residents' name or patient ID, address, date of birth, test result(s), and date(s) of service. These COVID-19 tests could have been performed anywhere in the United States between January 2020 to March 2021. Please note, the data files **DID NOT** contain social security numbers, banking, financial, or health insurance information.

The WDH started sending notices to affected individuals on April 26, 2021, and all notices will be mailed by May 7, 2021. However, we are unable to send notices to the 18,312 individuals affected by the breath alcohol test result file and approximately 24,647 individuals affected by the COVID-19 and Influenza test data files due to insufficient contact information. The Department asks anyone who received a breath alcohol test in Wyoming performed by law enforcement between April 19, 2012 and January 27, 2021, and Wyoming residents who received a COVID-19 or Influenza test anywhere in the United States between January 2020 - March 9, 2021, that does not receive a written notice to call the WDH Information line at 1-833-847-5916 to learn if their information was involved. The WDH Information line will be available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. starting April 27th and ending August 6, 2021.

The WDH understands how important personal information is, so we are offering affected individuals one year of identity theft protection through IdentityForce at no cost to them. IdentityForce provides advanced credit and dark web monitoring, along with identity theft insurance and medical identity theft coverage. To learn more and take advantage of the offer, affected individuals should contact the WDH Information line to obtain a verification code, then visit IdentityForce's website at <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/wdh>. To enroll, affected individuals must enter their first and last names, email address, and the verification code given to them by the WDH Information line.

We always recommend individuals take steps to protect themselves from potential harm by:

- Reading medical providers' notices of privacy practices carefully;
- Regularly requesting and maintaining copies of their health information;
- Monitoring their health information for accuracy and requesting an amendment of their health information if they believe it is incorrect;
- Regularly requesting use and disclosure reports (accounting of disclosures) from their medical providers, especially if they believe their information is being used or disclosed inappropriately; and
- If necessary, requesting restrictions of uses and disclosures of their health information.

We understand that this may pose an inconvenience to the affected individuals. We sincerely apologize and regret that this situation occurred. The WDH is committed to the privacy and security of individuals' protected health information. We took the actions outlined in this letter to protect their information from further harm or similar circumstances. In addition, we have:

- Sanctioned the workforce member responsible for the impermissible disclosures;
- Removed all files from the workforce member's repositories and requested that GitHub destroy any remaining data from their servers;
- Revised business practices, including prohibiting the use of these public repositories; and,
- Retrained the workforce involved to reinforce WDH policies and best practices regarding privacy and security.

For additional information or to determine if your information was involved, please contact the Wyoming Department of Health information line by phone at 1-833-847-5916 or by email at WDH-HIPAA@wyo.gov.

The Wyoming Department of Health