

## Sea Mar Community Health Centers Notifies Patients of Data Security Incident

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: October 29, 2021 – Sea Mar Community Health Centers (“Sea Mar”), a non-profit organization that provides healthcare services to underserved communities in the state of Washington, has learned of a data security incident that may have involved personal and protected health information belonging to certain current and former Sea Mar patients. Sea Mar has sent notification of this incident to potentially impacted individuals and has provided resources to assist them.

On June 24, 2021, Sea Mar was informed that certain Sea Mar data had been copied from its digital environment by an unauthorized actor. Upon receipt of this information, Sea Mar immediately took steps to secure its environment and commenced an investigation to determine what happened and to identify the specific information that may have been impacted. In so doing, Sea Mar engaged leading, independent cybersecurity experts for assistance. As a result, Sea Mar learned that additional data may have been removed from its digital environment between December 2020 and March 2021. Sea Mar thereafter began collecting contact information needed to provide notice to potentially affected individuals, which was completed on August 30, 2021.

Sea Mar is not aware of any evidence of the misuse of any information potentially involved in this incident. However, beginning on October 29, 2021, Sea Mar provided of this incident to the potentially impacted individuals. In so doing, Sea Mar provided information about the incident and about steps that potentially impacted individuals can take to protect their information. Sea Mar takes the security and privacy of patient information very seriously and is taking steps to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future.

The following personal and protected health information may have been involved in the incident: Name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, client identification number, medical / vision / dental / orthodontic diagnostic and treatment information, medical / vision / dental insurance information, claims information, and / or images associated with dental treatment.

Sea Mar has established a toll-free call center to answer questions about the incident and to address related concerns. Call center representatives are available Monday through Friday between 6:00 am – 3:30 pm Pacific Time and can be reached at 1-855-651-2684.

The privacy and protection of personal and protected health information is a top priority for Sea Mar, which deeply regrets any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause.

***While we are not aware of the misuse of any potentially affected individual’s information, we are providing the following information to help those wanting to know more about steps they can take to protect themselves and their personal information:***

### **What steps can I take to protect my personal information?**

- Please notify your financial institution immediately if you detect any suspicious activity on any of your accounts, including unauthorized transactions or new accounts opened in our name that you do not recognize. You should also promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidents of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities.
- You can request a copy of your credit report, free of charge, directly from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To do so, free of charge once every 12 months, please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies is listed at the bottom of this page.
- You can take steps recommended by the Federal Trade Commission to protect yourself from identify theft. The FTC’s website offers helpful information at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft).
- Additional information on what you can do to better protect yourself is included in your notification letter.

### **How do I obtain a copy of my credit report?**

You can obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, directly from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your credit report, free of charge once every 12 months, please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Use the following contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies:

**TransUnion**  
P.O. Box 1000  
Chester, PA 19016  
1-800-916-8800  
www.transunion.com

**Experian**  
P.O. Box 9532  
Allen, TX 75013  
1-888-397-3742  
www.experian.com

**Equifax**  
P.O. Box 105851  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
1-800-685-1111  
www.equifax.com

### **How do I put a fraud alert on my account?**

You may consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. This fraud alert statement informs creditors to possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that your creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact Equifax, Experian or TransUnion and follow the Fraud Victims instructions. To place a fraud alert on your credit accounts, contact your financial institution or credit provider. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies is included in the letter and is also listed at the bottom of this page.

### **How do I put a security freeze on my credit reports?**

You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, or regular stamped mail, or online by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. You will need to provide the following information when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are making a request for your spouse, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) address. You may also be asked to provide other personal information such as your email address, a copy of a government-issued identification card, and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. There is no charge to place, lift, or remove a freeze. You may obtain a security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze  
PO Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
1-800-685-1111  
www.equifax.com

Experian Security Freeze  
PO Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
1-888-397-3742  
www.experian.com

TransUnion (FVAD)  
PO Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022  
1-800-909-8872  
www.transunion.com

### **What should I do if my family member was involved in the incident and is deceased?**

You may choose to notify the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and Trans Union, and request they flag the deceased credit file. This will prevent the credit file information from being used to open credit. To make this request, mail a copy of your family member's death certificate to each company at the addresses below.

**Equifax**  
Equifax Information Services  
P.O. Box 105169,  
Atlanta, GA 30348

**Experian**  
Experian Information Services  
P.O. Box 9701  
Allen, TX 75013

**TransUnion**  
Trans Union Information  
Services  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022