Southwest Healthcare Services Provides Notice of Data Security Incident

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to Southwest Healthcare Services ("Southwest"). Unfortunately, Southwest has learned that an unauthorized actor may have obtained access to Southwest's network during a data security incident.

Upon learning of this issue, we secured the network and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation in consultation with outside cybersecurity professionals who regularly investigate and analyze these types of situations. After an extensive investigation and manual document review, we discovered on January 31, 2023, that some identifiable protected health information was contained in files that were accessed and/or acquired between October 28-29, 2022. The information involved included names, addresses, dates of birth, medical record and/or other internal identification numbers, driver's license/state identification numbers, clinical and treatment information, and/or health insurance information. Additionally, with respect to a limited number of patients, the information involved included Social Security numbers, financial account information, and/or payment card information. We have no evidence that any of the compromised information has been or will be misused for identity theft.

Commencing on March 31, 2023, Southwest has notified individuals whose information may have been involved. Notified individuals have been provided with best practices to protect their information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and obtaining a free credit report. Notified individuals should always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements and explanation of benefits statements and report any irregular activity. A credit monitoring membership has been offered to those individuals whose Social Security numbers were involved. *See below for additional information on protecting personal information*.

Southwest is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken additional precautions to safeguard it. Southwest continually evaluates and modifies its practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of personal information.

For individuals who have questions or need additional information regarding this incident, or to determine if they are impacted, Southwest has established a dedicated toll-free response line at **1-888-820-4621**. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 8 pm Central Time.

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

1. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

You may place an initial one-year "Fraud Alert" on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

Equifax
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
www.equifax.com
1-800-525-6285

Experian
P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion LLC
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
www.transunion.com
1-800-680-7289

2. Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a "Security Freeze" be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
https://www.freeze.equifax.com
1-800-349-9960

Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
http://experian.com/freeze
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze
1-888-909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, you'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in any credit monitoring service, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

3. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **www.annualcreditreport.com**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not

authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

4. Protecting Your Health Information.

As a general matter the following practices can help to protect you from medical identity theft.

- Only share your health insurance cards with your health care providers and other family members who are covered under your insurance plan or who help you with your medical care.

- Review your "explanation of benefits" statement which you receive from your health insurance company. Follow up with your insurance company or the care provider for any items you do not recognize. If necessary, contact the care provider on the explanation of benefits statement and ask for copies of medical records from the date of the potential disclosure (June 23, 2022) to current date.

- Ask your insurance company for a current year-to-date report of all services paid for you as a beneficiary. Follow up with your insurance company or care provider for any items you do not recognize.

5. Additional Helpful Resources.

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 report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the City in which you currently reside.