Lincoln County, South Dakota
Notice Regarding Data Security Incident

Lincoln County, South Dakota (“Lincoln County”) is committed to maintaining the privacy and security of information. On March 19, 2020, Lincoln County notified certain individuals about a data incident. Specifically, as a result of a phishing incident, an unauthorized party obtained access to a Lincoln County employee email account on September 3, 2019. Upon learning of this issue, Lincoln County secured the account and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of its investigation, it worked very closely with external cybersecurity professionals.

After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, Lincoln County discovered on February 19, 2020 that the accessed account contained personal information, including names, dates of birth, driver’s license, medical information including one or more of the following: diagnosis or clinical information, treatment type or location, doctor name, medical procedure information, medical record number and/or prescription information. The Social Security numbers and financial account information for a limited number of individuals were also in the accessed account. Not all information was included for all individuals.

Lincoln County has no evidence that the purpose of the incident was to obtain information, nor does it have any evidence that any information was actually acquired or used by the unauthorized party. Notified individuals have been provided with best practices to protect their information and have been reminded to remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements on a regular basis for any fraudulent activity. Lincoln County has recommended that affected individuals review the explanation of benefits statements that they receive from their health insurance providers and follow up on any items not recognized. Individuals whose Social Security numbers were contained in the impacted server have been offered a complimentary credit monitoring product. Finally, Lincoln County has taken steps to secure its network and improve internal procedures to identify and remediate future threats in order to minimize the risk of a similar incident in the future.

For further questions or additional information regarding this incident, or to determine if you may be impacted by this incident and are eligible for credit monitoring, a dedicated toll free response line has been set up at 1-888-455-5002. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time.