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August 15, 2024

VIA EMAIL (IDTHEFT@OAG.STATE.MD.US)

Anthony G. Brown
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General Brown:

We are writing on behalf of our client, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (“Fred Hutch”), to provide notice of a security incident involving Maryland residents. Fred Hutch is located in Seattle, Washington and is a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”).¹

On November 19, 2023, Fred Hutch detected unauthorized activity on limited parts of its clinical network. Fred Hutch immediately took steps to contain the activity and began an investigation with the assistance of a third-party forensic firm. The investigation determined that an unauthorized third party accessed Fred Hutch’s clinical network and obtained certain files from its systems between November 19 and November 25, 2023. The information involved included guarantor names and Social Security numbers.

Between December 20, 2023 and July 18, 2024, Fred Hutch mailed letters to affected individuals, including approximately 43 Maryland residents, via U.S. First-Class mail in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-3504. A sample copy of the notification letter is attached. Fred Hutch offered eligible individuals whose Social Security number may have been involved a complimentary membership to credit monitoring and identity protection services. Fred Hutch also established a dedicated call center where all individuals may obtain more information regarding the incident.

¹ This notice does not waive Fred Hutch’s objection that Maryland lacks personal jurisdiction over it regarding any claims related to this incident.

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Fred Hutch considers the health, safety, and privacy of its patients a top priority. Fred Hutch continuously updates and enhances systems to protect the data it maintains and has implemented additional defensive tools and increased monitoring to help prevent events such as this from occurring in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Sessions". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lynn" being more prominent than the last name "Sessions".

Lynn Sessions

Enclosure



Secure Processing Center
P.O. Box 3826
Suwanee, GA 30024

<<Name 1>>
<<Name 2>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

<<Date>>

<<CA Records: Notice of Data Breach>>

Dear <<Name 1>>:

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. We are writing to inform you of a data security incident that involved some of that information. This letter explains what happened, measures we have taken in response, and offers steps you may consider taking.

What Happened? As you may know, on November 19, 2023, we detected unauthorized activity on limited parts of our clinical network. We immediately took steps to contain the activity and began an investigation with the assistance of a third-party forensic firm. The investigation determined that an unauthorized third party accessed our clinical network and obtained certain files from our systems between November 19 and November 25, 2023.

What Information Was Involved? We reviewed the files involved and, on December 21, 2023, identified a subset of files that included employment-related information. Your name, date of birth, and Social Security number were included in these files. Your financial account information was not involved.

What We Are Doing & What You Can Do. Fred Hutch considers the privacy and security of our employees and community members a top priority. We are continuously updating and enhancing systems to protect the data we maintain and have implemented additional defensive tools and increased monitoring to help prevent events such as this from occurring in the future.

We are offering you a complimentary <<12/24>>-month membership to Experian® IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorksSM is completely free to you, and enrolling in this program will not affect your credit score. **For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorksSM, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership, please see the additional information provided with this letter.**

For More Information. If you have any questions, please call 1-888-983-0612, Monday through Friday, between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

We value the trust you place in us and take our responsibility to safeguard your personal information seriously. We apologize for any concern this incident might cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Van Dongen', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shauna Van Dongen, CIPP-US
Privacy Officer

Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: <<Enrollment Deadline>> (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit
3. PROVIDE the Activation Code: <<Activation Code>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 1-800-459-6011 by <<Enrollment Deadline>>. Be prepared to provide engagement number <<Engagement Number>> as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR <<12/24>>-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **Up to \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent at 1-800-459-6011. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that Identity Restoration support is needed, then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that this Identity Restoration support is available to you for <<12/24>> months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration. You will also find self-help tips and information about identity protection at this site.

* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

Credit or Security Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports? There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

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 bureau will provide you with 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.

How do I lift a freeze? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

Additional Information for Residents of the Following States:

Connecticut: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Connecticut Attorney General's Office*, 165 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag.

District of Columbia: You may contact and obtain information from your attorney general at: Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 441 4th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, 1-202-727-3400, www.oag.dc.gov.

Maryland: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Maryland Attorney General's Office*, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023 / 1-410-576-6300, www.oag.state.md.us. You may contact the Fred Hutch Compliance Office by mail at P.O. Box 19023, Seattle WA 98109-1023, 206-606-7154 or 866-353-6098.

Massachusetts: Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General*, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html.

New York: You may contact and obtain information from these state agencies: *New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection*, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection> | *New York State Office of the Attorney General*, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>.

North Carolina: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *North Carolina Attorney General's Office*, 9001 Mail Service Centre, Raleigh, NC 27699, 1-919-716-6000 / 1-877-566-7226, www.ncdoj.gov.

Rhode Island: Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Rhode Island Attorney General's Office*, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1-401-274-4400, www.riag.ri.gov.

West Virginia: You have the right to ask that nationwide consumer reporting agencies place “fraud alerts” in your file to let potential creditors and others know that you may be a victim of identity theft, as described above. You also have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report, as described above.

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act: The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Your major rights under the FCRA are summarized below. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

- You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.
- You have the right to know what is in your file.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.
- Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.
- Access to your file is limited.
- You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You have a right to place a “security freeze” on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have additional rights.