

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 8, 2022

Please Contact: [PR@wellstar.org](mailto:PR@wellstar.org) or [\(470\) 644-0232](tel:(470)644-0232)

## **Wellstar Health System Notifies Patients of Data Security Incident**

Wellstar Health System, Inc. (“Wellstar”) is committed to maintaining the privacy and security of information. Wellstar recently notified individuals of a data security incident involving access to two (2) Wellstar email accounts by an unauthorized-party.

Upon learning of this issue, Wellstar promptly disabled access to the impacted email accounts and required mandatory password resets to prevent further access by unauthorized parties. Wellstar immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation, working closely with external cybersecurity professionals. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, Wellstar discovered on February 7, 2022 that one or more of the email accounts accessed between December 6, 2021 and January 3, 2022 contained identifiable personal and/or protected health information. Wellstar has no evidence to suggest that any data is misused or otherwise in the possession of someone it should not be. However, out of an abundance of caution, we are issuing notices to anyone whose information may have been contained in the accessed accounts.

The accessed email accounts contained the personal and protected health information of certain individuals who received medical services from Wellstar, including their names, medical record numbers, Wellstar account number unique to Wellstar, and laboratory information. Social Security numbers and financial information were not included in the information that may have been accessed. This incident does not affect all individuals who received testing from Wellstar.

Wellstar is sending notification letters to each affected individual for whom we have enough information to determine a physical address. Notified individuals should monitor insurance statements for any transactions related to care or services that have not actually been received.

Since the date of this incident, Wellstar has taken measures to improve its technical safeguards in order to minimize the risk of a similar incident in the future, including implementing additional technical safeguards on its email system and providing additional training to employees to increase awareness of the risks of malicious emails.

For further questions or additional information regarding this incident, or to determine if you may be impacted, Wellstar has set up a dedicated toll-free response line for patients to ask questions. The response line can be contacted at (855) 482-1584 is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Central Time.