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ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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On October 20, 2021 the New York State Office of Mental Health and Bronx Psychiatric Center became aware of a breach of patient protected health information. The personal information included patient specific information such as names, patient identification numbers, patient cash account balances, facility residence information, client status information, as well as the dates of admission and discharge. The breach occurred due to the theft of Bronx Psychiatric Center audit records from the Office of Mental Health's Central Offices in Albany.

Although we do not have any knowledge that your information was accessed, you may protect yourself from future potential harm by following the steps below:

- Obtain a credit report from the following credit reporting agencies – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. A free credit report may be obtained once every 12 months if requested.
- Register a fraud alert with the three credit bureaus listed here, and order credit reports from:
 - (a) Experian: (888) 397-3742; www.experian.com; PO Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013,
 - (b) TransUnion: (800) 680-7289; www.transunion.com; PO Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92834-6790
 - (c) Equifax: (800) 525-6285; www.equifax.com; PO BOX 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374- 0241
- Also, you can Contact the Consumer Protection Agency at <https://ag.ny.gov/bureau/consumer-frauds-bureau> or Consumer Helpline: 1-800-771- 7755.

Additionally, you may monitor your accounts for any sign of fraudulent activity and should notify your banking institution if any suspicious activity is identified; and monitor your Explanation of Benefits statements from your health insurer for benefits that you have not received. You may also want to place a fraud alert and freeze your credit files.

The Office of Mental Health and Bronx Psychiatric Center have taken steps to protect your personal information from further harm or similar circumstances and reviews its administrative policies/procedures on privacy and security routinely to ensure that we are remaining vigilant in this area.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and concern this incident may cause. Your information and privacy are very important to us. We will continue to do everything we can to correct this situation and fortify our operational protections for you and others.

If you feel you may be impacted by this breach and have any questions or concerns, please, to contact Bronx Psychiatric Center at **1-833-719-2950**.