



The Valley Hospital Addresses Patient Privacy Incident

RIDGEWOOD, NJ, October 13, 2022 – Today, The Valley Hospital announced that it is notifying individuals of a privacy incident that it learned of on August 29, 2022.

The Valley Hospital was informed that Post-COVID-19 Testing Patient Instructions were mistakenly being discarded in a marked recycling bin at an outpatient COVID-19 testing facility. Upon learning of this, The Valley Hospital immediately launched an investigation and attempted unsuccessfully to retrieve the improperly discarded Instructions.

Through its investigation, The Valley Hospital determined that the Instructions included the names of the providers administering the COVID-19 test, and label with the patient names, medical record numbers, service dates, and location codes for the patients' scheduled procedure. The Instructions DID NOT include patient addresses, phone numbers, insurance identification numbers, Social Security numbers, positive or negative status, procedure type, or any other information that constitutes protected health information.

Although, to date, The Valley Hospital has no evidence that any of the Instructions were actually subject to unauthorized access or acquisition, we cannot rule out that possibility. Thus, out of an abundance of caution, The Valley Hospital is notifying all patients tested at that facility between June 1, 2022, and September 1, 2022.

Based on the limited nature of the information involved, patients tested at that facility are unlikely to be at risk of identity theft or data misuse, and no further action on their part is needed.

Valley Health System is committed to providing quality care, including protecting our patients' personal information, and have developed additional controls in order to safeguard against similar incidents happening in the future. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Valley at 833-875-0797, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time, or visit <http://response.idx.us/vhs-infoline/>.

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