FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UH-Affiliated Eye Clinic in Fort Worth Notifies Patients of Possible Data Exposure

HOUSTON, November 12, 2021 – The Community Eye Clinic, located in downtown Fort Worth, has notified about 18,500 individuals that an unauthorized third party from outside the United States accessed and obtained information contained in the clinic’s computer database, including patient records. The Community Eye Clinic is managed and administered by the University of Houston College of Optometry.

The patient records, which date from May 22, 2013 to September 13, 2021, include health information, contact information and other sensitive personal information, including insurance information and government identification numbers—passport numbers, social security numbers and driver’s license information. No debit or credit card or other bank information was stored in the database or contained in the information that was accessed.

Clinic personnel detected the security incident at about 9 a.m. on September 13, 2021, the morning after the incident occurred. After discovering the breach, Information Technology personnel immediately implemented network and system configuration changes, supplementing protective measures already in place to further protect the data. These actions include additional defensive safeguards and enhanced alerting to prevent future incidents. University of Houston personnel also promptly notified the FBI and other law enforcement regarding the incident.

Existing safeguards enabled the Clinic to retain access to all patient records, including those affected by the incident. The University of Houston has notified all individuals whose information was potentially exposed by mailing letters to all individuals as well as using alternate methods to notify those individuals whose contact information was out-of-date or incomplete.

A [website](#) contains the latest information related to this incident, as well as recommended precautions to protect against possible identity theft. The Community Eye Clinic has established a toll-free number, (833) 602-2108, to respond to patients’ questions about the incident. Former and current patients of the Clinic can also email [UEIadmin@central.uh.edu](mailto:UEIadmin@central.uh.edu) for additional information.

The University of Houston and the College of Optometry take privacy issues regarding health information and other personal data very seriously and are engaged in a careful review of the Clinic’s information technology
protocols and other procedures to ensure that the most effective industry security practices are consistently followed.

Learn more about identity theft and steps you can take to protect yourself by calling 1-977-IDTHEFT (1-977-438-4338) or visiting the Federal Trade Commission website and the Texas Attorney General website.

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