FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc.
Public Notice of Data Breach

FORT DEFIANCE, Arizona - On December 6, 2018, Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. (FDIHB) and Tséhootsooi Medical Center (TMC) discovered a data breach that may have led to access to protected information of 6,240 patient medical records.

The breach was created by a virus that accessed the FDIHB computer system and rapidly infected a number of computers. The virus was quickly discovered, the infected computers were isolated, and the virus was removed. Due to the nature of the virus, it was not possible to determine if any patient information was accessed by outside individuals. The protected information that may have been accessed include, but not limited to, patient names, addresses and medical record numbers.

FDIHB initiated and completed an investigation as to the cause and detection of this breach, and has made several internal changes to improve FDIHB’s computer and network security systems. One pertinent change was in upgrading the virus detection software. Additionally, staff received training on computer security awareness.

FDIHB is notifying each of the affected patients regarding the potential breach of their personal information. FDIHB is offering resources and further recommended the patients to contact their financial institutions and to monitor their credit to prevent unauthorized access to their accounts. Contact information will be posted on FDIHB’s website (www.fdihb.org) for any individuals with concerns regarding this breach.

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