

March, 2021

The Charles County Department of Health is providing this written notice to inform the public of a privacy incident that may have impacted individuals who completed the Charles County COVID-19 pre-registration form on our website. To date, the Charles County Department of Health has no evidence that individuals' health information has been misused or shared for carrying out any fraudulent or criminal activity. However, since the security of individuals' confidential information is something we take seriously, we are providing notice of this incident that may have affected you.

What Happened:

On the morning of Tuesday, January 26, 2021, a "see previous responses" button appeared after individuals submitted the Charles County COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration form on Google Forms. Information for a small group of people who had pre-registered was visible if individuals clicked on the "see previous responses" button after completing the COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration form. This incident was discovered on January 26th.

What Information Was Involved:

The information that was visible if the "see previous responses" link was clicked included name, birthdate, email address, phone number, and occupation. Each of these fields was a separate, summarized list, not necessarily in chronological order. There was a list of names, a list of birthdays, a list of email addresses, a list of phone numbers, and a list of occupations.

What We Are Doing:

After all pre-registration form entries were saved on a password protected and encrypted computer, the Google Form was immediately deleted on the morning of January 26, 2021. The link to the Charles County COVID-19 Pre-Registration Form was taken off of the health department website and social media pages. A new pre-registration form was developed in conjunction with PinPoint Health to ensure a HIPAA-compliant and secure platform.

What You Can Do:

While we are confident that this information has not been misused or shared for carrying out any fraudulent or criminal activity, you may want to consider taking steps to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach, such as continuing to monitor your credit report.

If you would like to know if you personally were affected, have any questions, or would like additional information regarding this incident, you may contact the Charles County Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center at 301-609-6717. Office hours for the Charles County Department of Health are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. You may also contact us in writing at: 4545 Crain Highway, White Plains, MD 20695. You may also contact us toll-free at 1-877-631-6183 to determine if you were personally affected by this incident.

We offer our sincerest apology that this unfortunate incident occurred. We assure you that safeguarding your information is the utmost importance to us.

Sincerely,

Dianna E. Abney, MD FAAP

Health Officer, Charles County