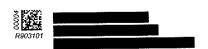


#14510

Processing Center • P.O. BOX 141578 • Austin, TX 78714



#### **Notice of Data Breach**

February 6, 2019

Dear ,

We are writing to notify you of a data security incident that occurred at Abbott involving the potential loss of some of your personal information. We take the privacy and protection of our employees' information very seriously. We deeply regret this incident and, as described below, we are taking steps to mitigate potential harm to you as a result of this incident.

Based on Abbott's investigation to date, we believe that the information at issue included employee name, Social Security number, date of birth, Abbott internal employee ID (or UPI), and general information about employee stock options and stock grants.

# What We Are Doing

Our employees' trust is a top priority for Abbott, and we deeply regret the inconvenience this may cause. Since becoming aware of this incident, Abbott and its third-party auditor have launched investigations to locate the information at issue as well as to determine whether proper procedures were followed. Abbott is also reassessing its own internal controls and the controls of its third-party auditor to ensure that Abbott employee data continues to be treated appropriately.

As an added precaution, we have arranged to have AllClear ID protect your identity for 24 months at no cost to you. The following identity protection services start on the date of this notice and you can use them at any time during the next 24 months.

AllClear Identity Repair: This service is automatically available to you with no enrollment required. If a problem arises, simply call and a dedicated investigator will help recover financial losses, restore your credit and make sure your identity is returned to its proper condition.

AllClear Fraud Alerts with Credit Monitoring: This service offers the ability to set, renew, and remove 1-year fraud alerts on your credit file to help protect you from credit fraud. In addition, it provides credit monitoring services, a once annual credit score and credit report, and a \$1 million identity theft insurance policy. To enroll in this service, you will need to provide your personal information to AllClear ID. You may sign up online at using the following redemption code: Redemption Code.

Please note: Following enrollment, additional steps are required by you in order to activate your phone alerts and fraud alerts, and to pull your credit score and credit file. Additional steps may also be required in order to activate your monitoring options.



## What You Can Do

There are steps you can take to protect yourself, such as placing a freeze on your credit report or contacting the appropriate authorities if you believe you have been the victim of identity theft. The enclosed "Identity Theft Protection Tips" describes some of these steps. Of course, it is always important that you remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and monitoring free credit reports for signs of fraud.

## For More Information

To file a report of identity theft and to obtain more information about combating identity theft, you can contact the Federal Trade Commission at the phone number and address included in the enclosed "Identity Theft Protection Tips."

If you have further questions or concerns about this incident, please call and the second sec

Sincerely,

Abbott Laboratories

Enclosure:

**Identity Theft Protection Tips** 

# **Identity Theft Protection Tips**

### Obtain A Police Report

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

## Monitor Your Accounts

You should remain vigilant for incidents of fraud, identity theft, and errors by regularly reviewing your account statements and monitoring free credit reports. If you discover any suspicious or unusual activity on your accounts, be sure to report it immediately to your financial institutions, as major credit card companies have rules that restrict them from requiring you to pay for fraudulent charges that are timely reported.

In addition, you are encouraged to contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), law enforcement, or the Massachusetts Attorney General to report incidents of suspected identity theft or to learn about steps you can take to protect yourself from identity theft. You can contact the FTC and the Massachusetts Attorney General at:

Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580 (877) IDTHEFT (438-4338) www.identitytheft.gov Office of the Attorney General Consumer Advocacy & Response Division One Ashburton Place, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02108 (617) 727-8400 www.mass.gov

If you find that your information has been misused, the FTC encourages you to file a complaint with the FTC and to take these additional steps, among others: (1) close the accounts that you have confirmed or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently; and (2) file and keep a copy of a local police report as evidence of the identity theft crime.

### Obtain Your Credit Reports

You should also monitor your credit reports. You may periodically obtain credit reports from each nationwide consumer reporting agency. If you discover inaccurate information or a fraudulent transaction on your credit report, you have the right to request that the consumer reporting agency delete that information from your credit report file.

In addition, under federal law, you are entitled to one free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report by going to www.AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling (877) 322-8228. You also may complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form available from the FTC at https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0093-annual-report-request-form.pdf, and mail it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. You may also contact any of the three major consumer reporting agencies to request a copy of your credit report.

Additionally, you have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). These include, among others, the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; and to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, please visit https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf or www.ftc.gov.

## Place a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File

In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC and the consumer reporting agencies about fraud alerts and security freezes. A fraud alert can make it more difficult for someone to get credit in your name because it tells creditors to follow certain procedures to protect you, but it also may delay your ability to obtain credit. If you suspect you may be a victim of identity theft, you may place a fraud alert in your file by calling just one of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies listed on the following page. As soon as that agency processes your fraud alert, it will notify the other two agencies, which then must also place fraud alerts in your file. An initial fraud alert will last one year. An extended alert stays on your file for seven years. To place either of these alerts, a consumer reporting agency will require you to provide appropriate proof of your identity, which may include your Social Security number. If you ask for an extended alert, you will have to provide an identity theft report.



# Place a Security Freeze on Your Credit File

Massachusetts law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit, mortgages, employment, housing, or other services.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a written request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion by regular, certified, or overnight mail at the addresses below:

Equifax P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 (800) 525-6285 www.equifax.com

Experian
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
(888) 397-3742
www.experian.com

TransUnion P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 (800) 680-7289 www.transunion.com

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- Date of birth;
- 4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
- 5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.); and
- 7. If you are a victim of identity theft, a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit reporting agencies must also send written confirmation to you within five (5) business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) or password, or both, that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must call or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze, as well as the identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.