

21 Worthen Road Lexington, MA 02421 22109

To Enroll, Please Visit: https://app.idx.us/accountcreation/protect

Enrollment Code:

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September 7, 2021

### **Notice of Data Breach**



The privacy and security of our patients' data is a responsibility that Lexington Eye Associates, Inc. ("Lexington Eye") takes seriously. We are writing to inform you of an incident that may have exposed your personal health information and want to provide you with resources you can use to protect your information.

# What Happened

On August 16, 2021, Lexington Eye Associates, Inc. ("Lexington Eye") discovered that an office employee had inappropriately collected your personal and health information for potential misuse. We believe that the employee used, or planned to use, this information for fraudulent means including unemployment fraud. The employee was immediately suspended pending an investigation, and then terminated from their employment with Lexington Eye on August 19, 2021.

### What Information Was Involved

The compromised information included the following: first and last name, date of birth, driver's license number, social security number, health insurance ID, spouse name, secondary health insurance ID, spouse date of birth, patient ID, email address, and medical record from a visit on July 29, 2021. We maintain this information for patient care and administrative purposes.

### What We Are Doing

Upon discovery of this incident, we immediately suspended and then terminated the subject employee. We are providing our staff with additional training with regard to the protection and confidentiality of our patients' personal and health information.

In addition, we are offering you identity theft protection services through IDX, the data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection services include: 24 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed id theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

#### What You Can Do

We encourage you to enroll in free IDX identity protection services by going to https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect or calling 1-800-939-4170 and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 6 am - 6 pm Pacific Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is June 30, 2021.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering.

## For More Information

You will find detailed instructions for enrollment on the enclosed Recommended Steps document. Also, you will need to reference the enrollment code at the top of this letter when enrolling, so please do not discard this letter. Should you have questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 781.876.2020 ext. 289.

Sincerely,

Angela Casazza, MHA, COE, PMP Executive Director Lexington Eye Associates, Inc.

(Enclosure)



# Recommended Steps to Help Protect Your Information

- 1. Website and Enrollment. Go to https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter.
- 2. Activate the credit monitoring provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you.
- 3. Review your credit reports. We recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, you also are entitled every 12 months to one free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies. To obtain a free annual credit report, go to www.annualereditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. You may wish to stagger your requests so that you receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

If you discover any suspicious items and have enrolled in IDX identity protection, notify them immediately by calling or by logging into the IDX website and filing a request for help.

If you file a request for help or report suspicious activity, you will be contacted by a member of our ID Care team who will help you determine the cause of the suspicious items. In the unlikely event that you fall victim to identity theft as a consequence of this incident, you will be assigned an ID Care Specialist who will work on your behalf to identify, stop and reverse the damage quickly.

You should also know that you have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some kind of proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

4. Place Fraud Alerts with the three credit bureaus. If you choose to place a fraud alert, we recommend you do this after activating your credit monitoring. You can place a fraud alert at one of the three major credit bureaus by phone and also via Experian's or Equifax's website. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. The contact information for all three bureaus is as follows:

## Credit Bureaus

Equifax Fraud Reporting 1-866-349-5191 P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069 www.equifax.com Experian Fraud Reporting 1-888-397-3742 P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 www.experian.com TransUnion Fraud Reporting 1-800-680-7289 P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19022-2000 www.transunion.com

It is necessary to contact only ONE of these bureaus and use only ONE of these methods. As soon as one of the three bureaus confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place alerts on their records as well. You will receive confirmation letters in the mail and will then be able to order all three credit reports, free of charge, for your review. An initial fraud alert will last for one year.

Please Note: No one is allowed to place a fraud alert on your credit report except you.

- 5. Security Freeze. By placing a security freeze, someone who fraudulently acquires your personal identifying information will not be able to use that information to open new accounts or borrow money in your name. You will need to contact the three national credit reporting bureaus listed above to place the freeze. Keep in mind that when you place the freeze, you will not be able to borrow money, obtain instant credit, or get a new credit card until you temporarily lift or permanently remove the freeze. There is no cost to freeze or unfreeze your credit files.
- 6. You can obtain additional information about the steps you can take to avoid identity theft from the following agencies. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them.

California Residents: Visit the California Office of Privacy Protection (<u>www.oag.ca.gov/privacy</u>) for additional information on protection against identity theft.

**Kentucky Residents:** Office of the Attorney General of Kentucky, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 118 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, www.ag.ky.gov, Telephone: 1-502-696-5300.

Maryland Residents: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer, Telephone: 1-888-743-0023.

New Mexico Residents: You have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from a violator. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. You can review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

New York Residents: the Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; https://ag.ny.gov/

North Carolina Residents: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov, Telephone: 1-919-716-6400.

Oregon Residents: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, www.doj.state.or.us/, Telephone: 877-877-9392

Rhode Island Residents: Office of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, www.riag.ri.gov, Telephone: 401-274-4400

**All US Residents:** Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580, www.consumer.gov/idtheft, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), TTY: 1-866-653-4261.



21 Worthen Road Lexington, MA 02421



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Dear ;

The privacy and security of our patients' data is a responsibility that Lexington Eye Associates, Inc. ("Lexington Eye") takes seriously. We are writing to inform you of an incident that may have exposed your personal health information and want to provide you with resources you can use to protect your information.

# What Happened

On August 16, 2021, Lexington Eye Associates, Inc. ("Lexington Eye") discovered that an office employee had inappropriately collected your personal and health information for potential misuse. We believe that the employee used, or planned to use, this information for fraudulent means including unemployment fraud. The employee was immediately suspended pending an investigation, and then terminated from their employment with Lexington Eye on August 19, 2021.

### What Information Was Involved

The compromised information included the following: first and last name, address, phone number, alternate phone number, health insurance ID, patient ID, social security number, email address. We maintain this information for patient care and administrative purposes.

### What We Are Doing

Upon discovery of this incident, we immediately suspended and then terminated the subject employee. We are providing our staff with additional training with regard to the protection and confidentiality of our patients' personal and health information.

In addition, we are offering you identity theft protection services through IDX, the data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection services include: 24 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed id theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

### What You Can Do

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We encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering.

# For More Information

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Sincerely,

Angela Casazza, MHA, COE, PMP Executive Director Lexington Eye Associates, Inc.

(Enclosure)



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- 3. Review your credit reports. We recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, you also are entitled every 12 months to one free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies. To obtain a free annual credit report, go to www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. You may wish to stagger your requests so that you receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

If you discover any suspicious items and have enrolled in IDX identity protection, notify them immediately by calling or by logging into the IDX website and filing a request for help.

If you file a request for help or report suspicious activity, you will be contacted by a member of our ID Care team who will help you determine the cause of the suspicious items. In the unlikely event that you fall victim to identity theft as a consequence of this incident, you will be assigned an ID Care Specialist who will work on your behalf to identify, stop and reverse the damage quickly.

You should also know that you have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some kind of proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

4. Place Fraud Alerts with the three credit bureaus. If you choose to place a fraud alert, we recommend you do this after activating your credit monitoring. You can place a fraud alert at one of the three major credit bureaus by phone and also via Experian's or Equifax's website. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. The contact information for all three bureaus is as follows:

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