

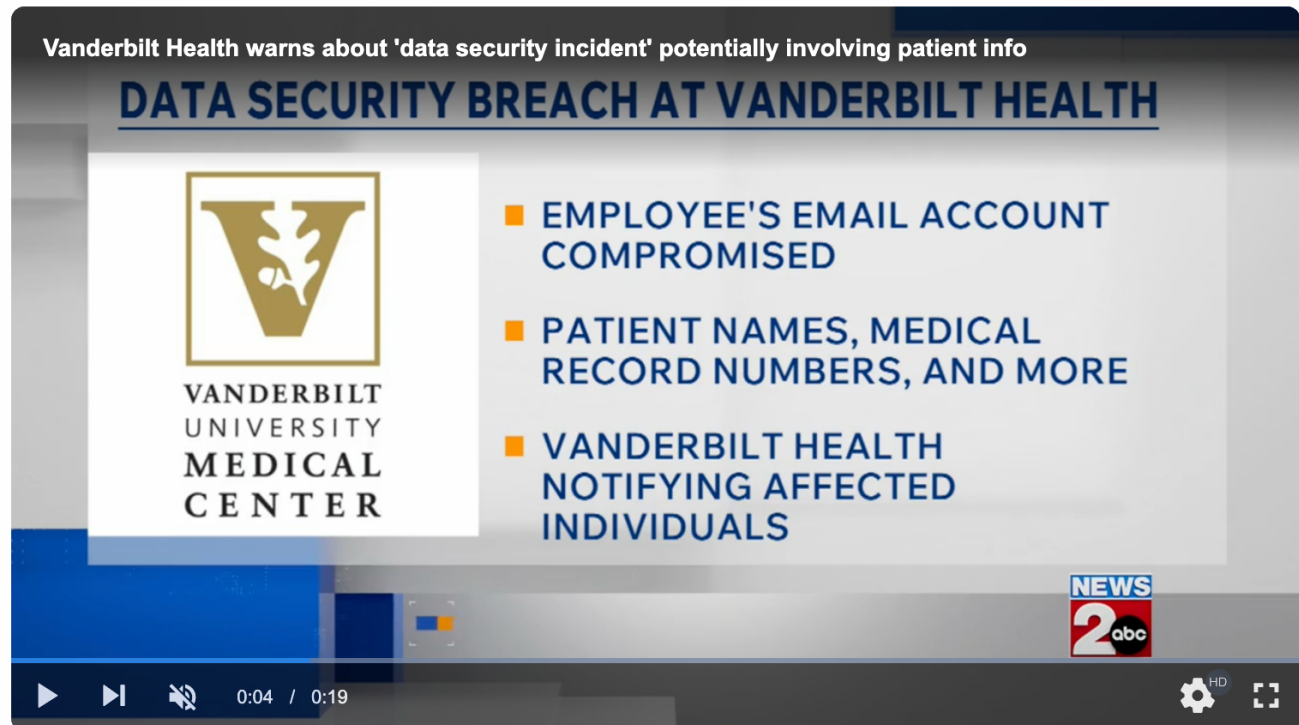
Vanderbilt Health warns about 'data security incident' potentially involving patient info

Colleen Guerry

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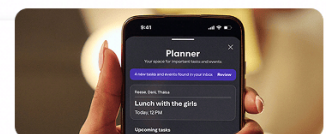
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WKRN) — Vanderbilt Health announced Friday that it's notifying "a limited number of patients" about a data security breach from earlier this year.

According to officials, Vanderbilt Health discovered on March 27 that someone gained access to an employee's email account after that employee clicked a malicious link in a message.

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Two months later, officials said the investigation uncovered evidence that an unauthorized individual had not only accessed certain documents within the email account on March 23, but that person may have viewed email attachments containing patient information.

"The information that may have been improperly accessed included patient names, medical record numbers, admission, discharge or visit dates, diagnosis or procedure information, and provider or facility names," Vanderbilt Health said in a statement on Friday, July 24. "No Social Security numbers or financial account information were involved. Vanderbilt Health has no evidence at this time that the information has been misused."

Officials emphasized that this "data security incident" did not involve Vanderbilt Health's electronic medical record system. However, the medical provider is contacting those impacted by the situation and providing complimentary credit monitoring services.

"Protecting the privacy and security of our patients' information is a top priority," said Sondra Hornsey, chief privacy officer at Vanderbilt Health. "While we have no evidence that patient information has been misused, we sincerely regret this incident and any concern it may cause. We are committed to maintaining the trust our patients place in us and continue to take steps to strengthen our security safeguards."

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In order to prevent similar incidents in the future, Vanderbilt Health is enhancing its email and digital security measures, as well as providing extra cybersecurity awareness training to its workforce, according to officials.

If you have any questions about this situation, you're encouraged to contact the Vanderbilt Health Privacy Office at **615-936-3594** or vumcprivacyoffice@vumc.org.