

OUR VISION: OUTSTANDING CARE - NO EXCEPTIONS!

OUR MISSION: PROVIDE QUALITY PERSON-CENTRED HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

CYBER-ATTACK STATEMENT

David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital

At Windsor Regional Hospital, we have confirmed that approximately 27,800 individuals were impacted by the criminal cyberattack. One patient is too many.

As stated in November these names in large part came from admission sheets, census sheets and assignment sheets that staff saved to a shared drive for others to access to allow clinical staff to do rounding-visit with - the patients. These contained a patient's name, floor they were on, room they were in and possibly their general diagnosis. They were NOT a patient's health records. They did not include social insurance numbers or bank accounts.

Generally speaking, from a patient's lens, systems have largely been restored at Windsor Regional Hospital, save for some ancillary systems. We have to ensure when bringing these systems back up that their security is verified by a third party.

I join with the representatives here from our partner hospitals in expressing thanks to our community for their patience and understanding.

Corewell Health, FINTRAC, London and Toronto Library, City of Hamilton-Town of Hunstville, AT&T – I could go on and on. What do they all have in common?

They are all locally connected entities that were subject to a cyberattack since October 23, 2023. Clearly the risk of a cyberattack was on our radars before October 23, 2023. However, it is something you would not wish on your worst enemy. In the last 8 years alone there have been at least 15 other hospitals targeted in Canada by criminal cyber attackers.

Let me reiterate – this was a criminal cyberattack, the likes of which are unfortunately far too common throughout Canada and beyond our borders, and across public and private business sectors. These are disgusting acts, particularly when aimed at vulnerable populations, including those who come to our hospitals for care and the hard-working and dedicated frontline staff who care for them.

I want to applaud the Windsor Regional Hospital and other Erie St Clair hospital teams and Transform staff for the amazing work they did to pull through this issue together.

For our patients, I can say that we have always understood the extreme importance in protecting the privacy of our patients. Lessons will be learned, applied and shared with others. Although information breached from WRH files was indeed limited, we will be informing anyone whose information may have been breached, regardless of the extent of that breach.

Thank you.