

COVID- 19 and Protected Health Information

HIPAA Privacy Rules - What information is protected?

The HIPAA Privacy Rule establishes national standards to protect the medical records and other Protected Health Information (PHI) of an individual. With a couple of exceptions, PHI includes all individually identifiable health information that is maintained or transmitted in any form or medium whether electronic, written, or oral. Some of the examples of Protected Health Information are names, all dates (except year) elements related to the person, license numbers, fax numbers, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and demographic information such as addresses, geographic codes smaller than state, etc. Any other information that can possibly identify the person needs to be protected.

HIPAA Violations

Willful neglect of HIPAA Rules results in a fine of \$50,000.00 per violation, and suspension or termination of professional licensure.

Positive Cases

Positive cases of COVID in the county are/will be thoroughly investigated by Health Department staff. If you have been in contact with a case, you will be contacted. Only staff directly involved in an investigation have knowledge of the investigation or the person/persons involved. It is confidential information and is NOT shared among staff in the office, or members of the community.

Please understand that we are required by LAW to keep this, and all, information confidential. We will NOT release information to anyone.

Also understand, that this is not Shawnee County with 180,000 people. Wabaunsee County has a population of roughly 7,000 and is comprised of small towns. Releasing even small amounts of information, like a town, make it very easy to “narrow down” who a person might be. We are fiercely protective of our residents and will protect their information just as we would yours.

Thank you for the understanding.....