

To: All employees

Subject: State Auditor - Data Breach

Unfortunately, Western was recently notified of a data breach that may impact Western employees. As a result, we feel it is important to inform you as quickly as possible.

The Washington State Auditor's Office, a separately elected official, informed us about a security incident involving a third-party software service vendor the SAO was using. The incident, which occurred last month, may have exposed the personal and financial information of about 1.6 million Washingtonians who filed unemployment claims in 2020. This includes many state employees. To be clear, this was not the result of any actions of anyone at the Employment Security Department. It was a third-party vendor that was working for the State Auditor. It does not make the impact any less important, but it is important to note this is not the result of any actions or inactions at ESD.

State HR is awaiting further details from the Auditor's Office on the extent of the data breach and the information compromised. We wanted to share the latest information we have right now.

Employees whose information may have been compromised will be notified directly by the State Auditor's Office. The Office of Financial Management and SAO are both setting up websites to help ensure employees are apprised of any new developments and available resources. Both are expected to go live today. OFM site will be ofm.wa.gov/saodatabreach. The SAO site will be sao.wa.gov/breach2021. There will also be a SAO call center set up later this week for employees to get assistance and resources with these issues, we will make sure you have it as soon as it is available.

HR will continue to monitor this situation and support the state in any way we can. While you patiently await contact from SAO regarding your personal risk, **please do not contact the Employment Security Department**. They are not responsible for this problem and are not the appropriate place to troubleshoot issues that arise from it.

We will keep you informed as more information is provided.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chyerl Wolfe-Lee

Assistant Vice President of Human Resources