

Friday, May 12, 2017

Ransomware Attack Affects Dozens of Nations, Including U.K. Health System

Hospitals and Health Systems Should Remain on Alert

The United Kingdom's National Health Service has been attacked with a variant of ransomware known as Wanna Decryptor. According to news reports, entities in dozens of countries across Europe and Asia have reported similar attacks. Victims were targeted through emails, which contained an encrypted, compressed file that, if opened, infected the recipient's system with the ransomware.

While there is no guidance specific to this attack at this time, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response said they are "aware that there is evidence of this attack occurring inside the United States" and urges hospitals to "continue to exercise cyber security best practices – particularly with respect to email." Hospitals should be updating their systems routinely. Microsoft provided an update that will patch this vulnerability in March.

AHA also encourages hospitals and health systems to review the Federal Bureau of Investigation's [guidance on malware](#) and continue to monitor news reports as additional details of the ongoing attack unfold. Please visit our [cyber security webpage](#) for additional resources. AHA will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Questions should be directed to AHA Assistant General Counsel Lawrence Hughes at lhughes@aha.org or (202) 626-2346, or AHA Vice President of Policy Chantal Worzala at cworzala@aha.org or (202) 626-2313.

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