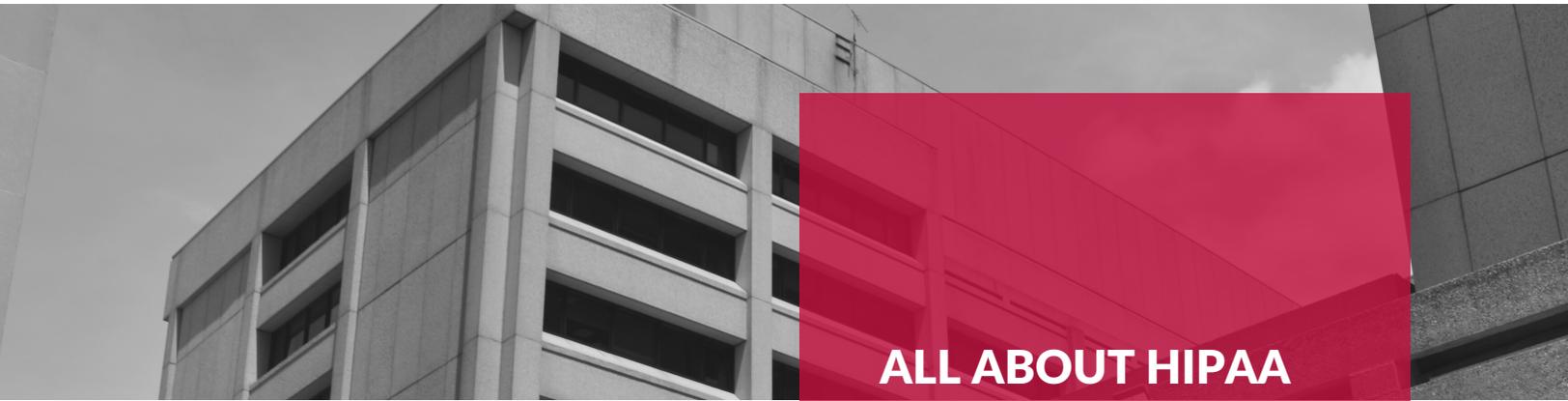


Updates from the MDH Office of Internal Controls and Audit Compliance



ALL ABOUT HIPAA

HIPAA and COVID-19

HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules apply to COVID-19 data when that data was created or collected by MDH when MDH is acting in a capacity as a healthcare provider or payer. Generally speaking, most data collected or stored by Medicaid or local health departments is protected by HIPAA and can only be disclosed in a manner that complies with HIPAA regulations.



If you have additional questions about HIPAA or your responsibility under HIPAA as an MDH employee, or to make a report about a potential HIPAA violation, please visit the IAC website or contact the MDH Privacy Officer.

IAC website
<https://health.maryland.gov/IAC>

MDH Privacy Officer
Lauren Boyce
410-767-5411
Lauren.Boyce1@maryland.gov

Can MDH employees disclose someone's COVID-19 status?

HIPAA prevents MDH staff from disclosing the COVID-19 test results or vaccine status of individuals to third parties in most cases, **unless** there is authorization from the individual, a HIPAA exception applies, or the data was collected or created by MDH when it was acting in its role as a public health agency, not as a provider or payer.

Can individuals share their COVID-19 status?

HIPAA does not prevent an individual from disclosing their own health information. Every individual is free to disclose their vaccine status or test results to anyone they choose.

Can employers ask employees about their COVID-19 status?

HIPAA does not prevent employers from asking employees about their vaccine status or test results. While other laws or policies may protect the information in these circumstances, HIPAA does not. If the employer is a medical provider, they may still ask employees about their COVID-19 test results or vaccine status because they would not be acting in their role as a health care provider subject to HIPAA when they request the information.

The IAC is hiring!

The IAC is recruiting for an Internal Auditor Supervisor.

The job announcement (Recruitment #21-004376-0002) can be found on JobApsCloud.com:

<https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=21&R2=004376&R3=0002>

