

May 12, 2017

Dear Hospital Chief Executive Officers:

Re: May 12th malware outbreak affects hospitals in the United Kingdom.

You may be aware that there have been a number of reports today about a malware outbreak affecting organizations in the UK National Health Service. As is being reported by a number of media outlets, this incident has also affected organizations in other sectors and countries.

The malware is being referred to as “WannaCry Ransomware”. This malware can be installed from multiple sources including: email (attachments or links), downloads and infected memory sticks. Once infected the malware encrypts files on a computer making these files inaccessible.

The malware appears to be exploiting a known vulnerability called MS17-010. There is a patch available to protect against this vulnerability, and more information can be found at the link provided below. I encourage you to consult with your hospital’s Chief Information Officer if you have any questions about this vulnerability or the malware outbreak.

Regards,

Lorelle Taylor

Associate Deputy Minister, Health System Information Management, and,
Chief Information Officer

Hospital Chief Executive Officers

Link to Microsoft Security Bulletin:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/security/ms17-010.aspx>

Link to selected media reports:

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/world/british-hospital-cyber-attack-1.4112129>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/12/world/europe/uk-national-health-service-cyberattack.html>