April 2, 2015

Dear colleagues,

A number of individuals in the Dartmouth community have recently reported that fraudulent tax returns have been filed in their name. Understandably, there has been concern that this activity was related to the recent Anthem breach. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing where the fraud originated, and we saw instances of this problem within our community last year (prior to the breach). There has been coverage of this tax return problem in the media for the last few years. Nonetheless, we contacted Anthem to determine whether they could provide any new information. They reported that “the FBI has found no evidence that the cyber attackers have shared or sold any of our members’ data and there is no evidence that fraud has occurred against our members, including fraudulent tax returns.”

For federal tax returns, and for many states including Vermont, if you have not yet filed you may log on to the relevant agency website to determine whether a return has been filed using your identity. The IRS also maintains an identity fraud briefing page at http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection. It is recommended that if you are submitting your federal or state tax returns and find that one has been fraudulently submitted in your name, you contact the relevant agency and report the theft immediately.

We also again encourage you to use the services being provided by Anthem. Anthem is offering two years of free credit monitoring and identity theft repair services to all those who may have been affected by the recent security breach. We encourage all community members who elected medical benefits between 2004 through 2012 to consider enrolling in these services. You can do so by going to http://www.anthempfacts.com/ and following the posted instructions.

Additional resources, including information about security sessions being offered on campus, can be found on the Dartmouth Benefits website.

Thank you,
Rick Mills
Executive Vice President