

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

June 5, 2024

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-00
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Dr. Ladapo:

Enclosed is our internal audit report # A-2223-001, *Department's Cybersecurity Incident Response, Reporting, and Recovery*. The report provides an independent evaluation of the Department's cybersecurity policies, procedures, activities, and processes related to incident response, reporting, and recovery – from initial planning and preparation, through implementation, execution, and post-incident review.

The audit was conducted by Ashlea K. Mincy, CIGA, Director of Auditing, work reviewed by Shannon Egler, CIGA, Senior Management Analyst II; and supervised by Michael J. Bennett, CIA, CGAP, CIG, Inspector General.

If you wish to discuss the report, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bennett, CIA, CGAP, CIG
Inspector General

MJB/akm
Enclosure

cc: Melinda M. Miguel, Chief Inspector General, Executive Office of the Governor
Samantha Perry, CPA, Office of the Auditor General
Cassandra G. Pasley, BSN, JD, Chief of Staff
Antonio D. Dawkins, MPA, PMP, Deputy Secretary for Operations
Ashlea K. Mincy, CIGA, Director of Auditing





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CYBERSECURITY
INCIDENT RESPONSE, REPORTING, AND RECOVERY

Report # A-2324-001 • June 5, 2024

Purpose of this project:

As part of the Department of Health (Department), Office of Inspector General's (OIG) 2023-2024 Audit Plan, and in accordance with section 20.055 (6)(i), Florida Statutes, our office conducted an audit to evaluate the Department's cybersecurity policies, procedures, activities, and processes related to incident response, reporting, and recovery – from initial planning and preparation, through implementation, execution, and post-incident review.

What we examined:

The Department's controls and compliance with incident response, reporting, and recovery requirements contained in the Florida Cybersecurity Standards (Rules 60GG-2.001 through 60GG-2.006, Florida Administrative Code). Additionally, we observed the Department's 2023 Computer Security Incident Response Team Exercise that was conducted on October 18, 2023.

Summary of results:

The program utilized for this audit was provided by the Office of the Chief Inspector General to provide guidance to agency inspectors general for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Enterprise Cybersecurity Audit, which focuses on incident response, reporting, and recovery. The program aided in the identification of predetermined set of instructions or procedures that would help information and information system administrators detect, respond, recover, and limit the consequences of cybersecurity incidents against all information systems. The program was created in line with the guidance from the National Institute of Standards and Technology Framework (NIST), and MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Technique, and Common Knowledge base.

The program was divided into the following sections Preparation; Detection and Analysis; Containment, Eradication, and Recovery; Post-Incident Activity; and Coordination. According to the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Department has not had a confirmed or suspected cybersecurity incident in the past three years that would have required reporting and after-action reports. Thus, we were limited in our ability to adequately evaluate the Post-Incident Activity and Coordination portions of the program.

No major issues were identified during our evaluation of the Department's cybersecurity policies, procedures, activities, and processes related to Preparation; Detection and Analysis; and Containment, Eradication, and Recovery.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Section 20.055, Florida Statutes, charges the Department's OIG with responsibility to provide a central point for coordination of activities that promote accountability, integrity, and efficiency in government.

Ashlea K. Mincy, CIGA, Director of Auditing, conducted the audit with her work reviewed by Shannon Egler, CIGA, Senior Management Analyst II; and supervised by Michael J. Bennett, CIA, CGAP, CIG, Inspector General.

Our methodology included reviewing section 282.318, Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, Department Policy 50-10-23, *Information Security and Privacy*, and NIST special publications. Additionally, we reviewed documents submitted by OIT and interviewed key OIT management and staff.

This audit was conducted in conformance with *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*, issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors, as provided by section 20.055(6)(a), Florida Statutes, and as recommended by Quality Standards for Audits by Offices of Inspector General (*Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspectors General*, Association of Inspectors General).

We want to thank the Department's Deputy Secretary for Operations, and management and staff in the Department's OIT for the information and documentation provided, and for their cooperation throughout the project.

Copies of all final reports are available on our website at www.FloridaHealth.gov (search: internal audit). If you have questions or comments, please contact us by the following means:

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