

BANKING/ FINANCE

Cyberattack Hobbles Major Hospital Chain's US Facilities



Universal Health Services Inc., which operates more than 250 hospitals and other clinical facilities in the U.S., blamed the outage on an unspecified IT "security issue."

by Frank Bajak and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

A computer outage at a major hospital chain thrust health care facilities across the U.S. into chaos, with treatment impeded as doctors and nurses already burdened by the coronavirus pandemic were forced to rely on paper backup systems.

Universal Health Services Inc., which operates more than 250 hospitals and other clinical facilities in the U.S., blamed the outage on an unspecified IT "security issue" in a statement posted to its website Monday but provided no details about the incident, such as how many facilities were affected and whether patients had to be diverted to other hospitals.

UHS workers reached by The Associated Press at company facilities in Texas and Washington, D.C., described mad scrambles after the outage began overnight Sunday to render care, including longer emergency room waits and anxiety over determining which patients might be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

The Fortune 500 company, with 90,000 employees, said "patient care continues to be delivered safely and effectively" and no patient or employee data appeared to have been "accessed, copied or misused." The King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, company also has hospitals in the United Kingdom, but its operations in that country were not affected, a spokeswoman said Monday night.

John Riggi, senior cybersecurity adviser to the American Hospital Association, called it a "suspected ransomware attack," affirming reporting on the social media site Reddit by people identifying themselves as UHS employees. BleepingComputer, an online cybersecurity news site, spoke to UHS employees who described ransomware with the characteristics of Ryuk, which has been widely linked to Russian cybercriminals and used against large enterprises.

Criminals have been increasingly targeting health care institutions with ransomware during the pandemic, infecting networks with malicious code that scrambles data. To unlock it, they demand payment.

Increasingly, ransomware purveyors download data from networks before encrypting targeted servers, using it for

extortion. Earlier this month, the first known fatality related to ransomware occurred in Duesseldorf, Germany, after an attack caused IT systems to fail and a critically ill patient needing urgent admission died after she had to be taken to another city for treatment.

UHS may not be a household name, but has U.S. hospitals from Washington, D.C., to Fremont, California, and Orlando to Anchorage, Alaska. Some of its facilities provide care for people coping with psychiatric conditions and substance abuse problems.

A clinician involved in direct patient care at a Washington UHC facility described a high-anxiety scramble to handle the loss of computers and some phones. That meant medical staff could not easily see lab results, imaging scans, medication lists, and other critical pieces of information doctors rely on to make decisions. Phone problems complicated the situation, making it harder to communicate with nurses. Lab orders had to be hand-delivered.

"These things could be life or death," said the clinician.

A different UHS health care worker, at an acute care facility in Texas, described an even more chaotic scene. Both the Texas and Washington D.C. workers asked not to be identified by name because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

"As of right now we have no access to any patient files, history nothing," the Texas worker said, with emergency room wait times going from 45 minutes to six hours. "Doctors aren't able to access any type of X-rays, CT scans."

Nothing that runs on Wi-Fi alone was functioning Monday, the Texas worker said. Telemetry monitors that show critical care patients' heart rates, blood pressure and oxygen levels went dark and had to be restored with ethernet cabling.

The Washington clinician said there was a lot of concern about how to determine whether patients had been exposed to the coronavirus, adding that no harm came to any of the 20 or so patients they attended to. However, anxiety reigned during the entire shift. Handing off a patient to another department, always a delicate task because of the potential for miscommunication, became especially nerve-wracking.

Frank Bajak and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar report for the Associated Press.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL MEETING** on **Wednesday, October 14, 2020 beginning at 10:00 AM** to consider an Ordinance allowing all local businesses in the City of Doral with an active Business Tax Receipt (BTR) to apply for a temporary BTR with a sunset provision of December 31, 2021, that will serve as a secondary use to their location due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Council will consider this item for **First Reading**

Public Comments: members of the public that wish to provide comments may do so by emailing the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofdoral.com. Comments must be submitted with your name and full address by **Tuesday, October 13, 2020**. The comments will be circulated to the elected officials and administration, as well as remain as a part of the record for the meeting.

The meeting will be broadcasted live for members of the public to view on the City of Doral's website (<https://www.cityofdoral.com/government/city-clerk/council-meetings>) as well as Channel 77 and Facebook Live.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2020-26

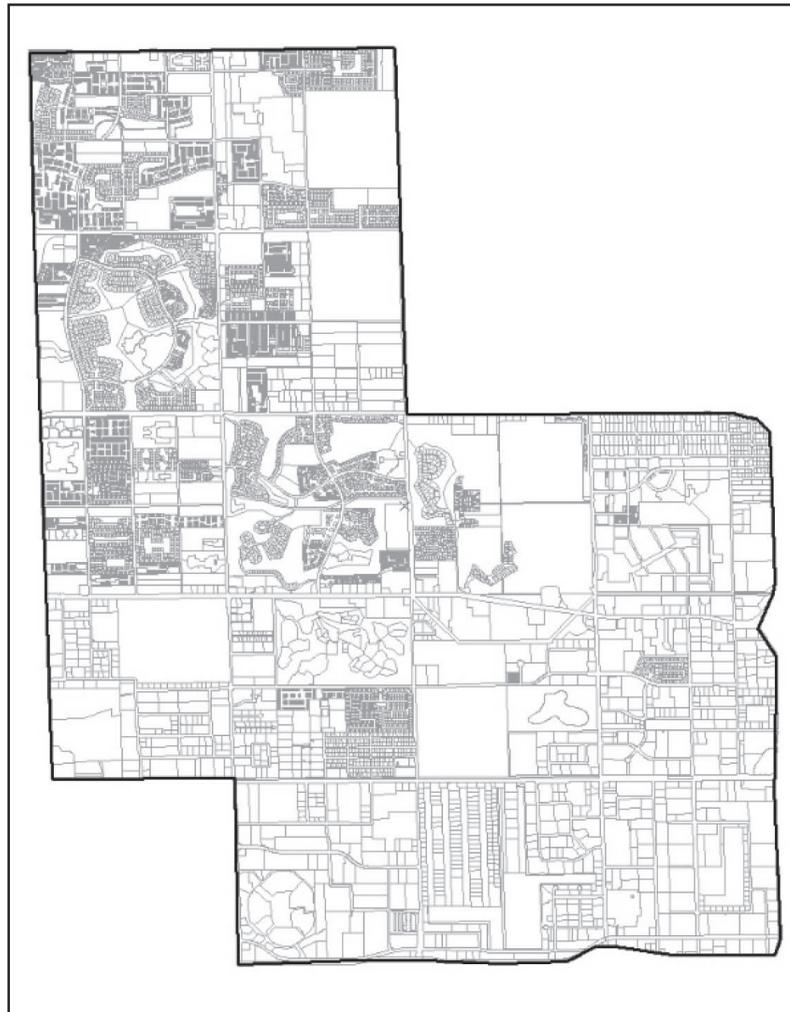
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF DORAL WITH AN ACTIVE BUSINESS TAX RECEIPT (BTR) TO APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY BTR WITH A SUNSET PROVISION OF DECEMBER 31, 2021, THAT WILL SERVE AS A SECONDARY USE TO THEIR LOCATION TO AID IN MITIGATING THE FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER PROVISION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 20-10-DOR-02

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City of Doral (the "Applicant") is requesting the Mayor and the City Council approval of an ordinance allowing all local businesses in the City of Doral with an active Business Tax Receipt (BTR), to apply for a temporary BTR with a sunset provision of December 31, 2021, that will serve as a secondary use to their location due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral City of Doral