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**FOR RELEASE**

**UK HealthCare providing updated flu numbers**

**LEXINGTON, Ky. (Jan. 24, 2023) –** UK HealthCare is providing updated flu data to area health departments to correct information not previously reported.

Due to an information technology data systems issue, 2,082 positive flu results from October through early January were not received from UK HealthCare by the Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE), a secure network where hospitals and health care facilities can locate and share patient health information. Through KHIE, the data is then shared with local health departments.

The issue had no impact on patient care during the temporary reporting disruption.

The issue was detected in mid-November and data specialists at UK HealthCare collaborated with KHIE to resolve the problem caused by a coding issue that resulted in disruption of the data flow from Epic, UK HealthCare’s electronic health record system, into the KHIE system.

When a patient tests positive for the flu at one of UK HealthCare’s hospitals – UK Chandler, UK Good Samaritan and UK Kentucky Children’s Hospital – or at a UK HealthCare outpatient clinic, that information is then reported in the KHIE database to the patient’s home county. However, during the time of the reporting outage, the information was not received by the patient’s county health department.

The issue was resolved on Jan. 11, and corrected data was resent to KHIE last week. This data is now accessible to the impacted health departments, which have been notified and are reconciling the backlog of data.

As a result, several health departments in the counties of residence of UK HealthCare patients now have an increased overall number of positive flu results for this flu season.

“We are deeply committed not only to the quality care of our patients but also our responsibility in accurate and transparent reporting of patient care data and worked to resolve this issue and correct data as soon as possible,” said Kimberly Blanton, DNP, chief nursing officer at UK Chandler Hospital. “We also greatly value our relationships with the local health departments in the state, the Kentucky Health Information Exchange and the Kentucky Department of Public Health and are appreciative for their assistance in resolving and reconciling this issue.”

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*UK HealthCare is the hospitals and clinics of the University of Kentucky. But it is so much more. It is more than 10,000 dedicated health care professionals committed to providing advanced subspecialty care for the most critically injured and ill patients from the Commonwealth and beyond. It also is the home of the state’s only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center, a Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit that cares for the tiniest and sickest newborns, the region’s only Level 1 trauma center and Kentucky’s top hospital ranked by U.S. News & World Report.*

*As an academic research institution, we are continuously pursuing the next generation of cures, treatments, protocols and policies. Our discoveries have the potential to change what’s medically possible within our lifetimes. Our educators and thought leaders are transforming the health care landscape as our six health professions colleges teach the next generation of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals, spreading the highest standards of care. UK HealthCare is the power of advanced medicine committed to creating a healthier Kentucky, now and for generations to come.*