PAUBOX RESEARCH

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Breached healthcare orgs leave email authentication unenforced

74% of breached organizations had missing or unenforced DMARC. Over half also ran permissive or missing SPF records.

What we found

74% of breached organizations had missing or unenforced DMARC.

Of breached organizations, 41% had no DMARC at all and 33% ran it in monitoring-only mode, so unauthorized senders were never blocked. SPF was more common but often permissive: 46% used soft-fail policies and 9% had no record, letting spoofed mail still reach the inbox.

What it means for buyers

DMARC rarely enforced
74% of breached organizations had missing or unenforced DMARC, 41% with none and 33% monitor-only.

SPF left permissive
56% ran permissive or missing SPF, with 46% soft-fail and 9% no record at all.

Spoofed mail still lands
Without enforcement, messages from unauthorized servers are delivered instead of rejected.

Sources: Paubox 2026 research, 2026 Healthcare Email Security Report (analysis of 2025 healthcare email breaches).