

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards

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Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 617-624-5757

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| MAURA T. HEALEY  Governor  KIMBERLEY L. DRISCOLL  Lieutenant Governor |

March 10, 2025

KATHLEEN E. WALSH

Secretary

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, MD, PhD Commissioner

**Tel: 617-624-6000**

**www.mass.gov/dph**

Kevin F. Coppinger, Sheriff

Essex County Sheriff’s Department Headquarters

20 Manning Avenue

Middleton, MA 01929 (electronic copy)

Re: Facility Inspection – Essex County Correctional Alternative Center, Lawrence

Dear Sheriff Coppinger:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) conducted an inspection of the Essex County Correctional Alternative Center on February 25, 2025 accompanied by Sean Gallagher, Director of Operations and Captain Jim Comeau, in accordance with Department regulations 105 CMR 451.000: Minimum Health and Sanitation Standards and Inspection Procedures for Correctional Facilities.

The inspection identified 74 total deficiencies: 35 deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series), 16 repeat deficiencies under the Required Standards, 12 deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series), 7 repeat deficiencies under the Recommended Standards, and 4 deficiencies under 105 CMR 451.402(B) (other conditions that may constitute a threat to health or safety).

**Overview**

**Section 1** provides details of all deficiencies, including repeat deficiencies, found during the inspection. These are categorized by Required Standards, Recommended Standards, or additional applicable regulatory standards.

**Section 2** provides information on areas that EHRS found to be compliant.

**Section 3** documents the areas that EHRS did not inspect.

**Section 4** provides information on submitting a Plan of Correction for the identified deficiencies.

**Section 5** outlines observations and recommendations related to the inspection.

**SECTION 1: Health and Safety Deficiencies**

**Main Building**

**Deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series)**

33 new deficiencies and 15 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Control | Bathroom (near Shift Commander’s Office) | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Radiator rusted |
| 1. Control | Shift Commander’s Office | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food preparation not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, interior of microwave oven dirty |
| 1. Lobby | Staff Break Room | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food preparation not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, interior of microwave oven dirty |
| 1. South Side 1st Floor | Female Staff Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water stained |
| 1. South Side 1st Floor | Female Staff Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.126 | Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 61°F at handwash sink |
| 1. South Side 1st Floor | Male Staff Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Radiator rusted |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Room # S202 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen damaged at both windows |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Room # S206 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen damaged at one window |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Room # S206 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen missing at one window |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Room # S207 | 105 CMR 451.102 | Pillows and Linens: Pillow damaged on bed # 1 |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.126 | Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 95°F at handwash sink |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Strong urine odor present |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Light shield(s) missing |
| 1. South Side 3rd Floor | Inmate Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.126 | Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 100°F at handwash sink |
| 1. North Side 1st Floor | Dining Room | 105 CMR 451.130 | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink leaking |
| 1. North Side 1st Floor | Dining Room | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food preparation not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, interior of microwave oven dirty |
| 1. North Side 1st Floor | Tray Room | 105 CMR 451.200 | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, sprayer head moldy at sink. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). |
| 1. Kitchen | Refrigerators | 105 CMR 451.200\* | Maintenance and Operation, Equipment: Equipment components not maintained in a state of good repair, mold on gaskets in refrigerator # 3. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 4-501.11(B). |
| 1. Kitchen | Dry Storage Closet | 105 CMR 451.200 | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not in good repair, wall fan dusty. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.11. |
| 1. Kitchen | Main Area | 105 CMR 451.200\* | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not in good repair, ceiling leaking in freezer. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.11. |
| 1. Kitchen | Main Area | 105 CMR 451.200\* | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, excessive ice build-up on floor in freezer. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). |
| 1. Kitchen | 2-Compartment Sink (Left) | 105 CMR 451.200 | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, wall fan dusty and doesn't open completely. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). |
| 1. Kitchen | 2-Compartment Sink (Right) | 105 CMR 451.200 | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, water sprayer moldy at sink. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Inmate Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N202 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen damaged |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N203 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen missing |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N204 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen damaged |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N209 | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen missing |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N210 (Left) | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen missing |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N210 (Right) | 105 CMR 451.141\* | Screens: Screen missing |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N210 (Right) | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen damaged |
| 1. North Side 3rd Floor | Room # N301 | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress damaged |
| 1. North Side 3rd Floor | Room # N307 | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress damaged on bed # 2 |
| 1. Maintenance Cage | Maintenance Storage | 105 CMR 451.141 | Screens: Screen missing |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Toilets and Handwash Sinks | 105 CMR 451.130 | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink # 9 loose |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Toilets and Handwash Sinks | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Wall missing under sink |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Main Shower | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Walls dirty in shower # 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Main Shower | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Walls dirty in shower # 1 |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Main Shower | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Main Shower | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Ceiling vent rusted |
| 1. Main Bathroom | Slop Sink | 105 CMR 451.130\* | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, not hot water supplied to slop sink |
| 1. Print Shop (off of Gym) | Toilets and Handwash Sinks | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Ceiling vent dusty |
| 1. Officer’s Weight Room | Male Staff Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Baseboard damaged near showers |

**Deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series)**

11 new deficiencies and 7 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Room # S209 | 105 CMR 451.350 | Structural Maintenance: Wall damaged |
| 1. South Side 2nd Floor | Room # S211 | 105 CMR 451.350\* | Structural Maintenance: Ceiling damaged |
| 1. South Side 3rd Floor | Room # S303 | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Floor tile damaged |
| 1. South Side 3rd Floor | Room # S304 | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Missing outlet cover by door |
| 1. North Side 1st Floor | Male Visitor’s Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wall vent dusty |
| 1. North Side 1st Floor | Female Visitor’s Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wall vent dusty |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N203 | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling tile |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Room # N205 | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling tile |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Barber Shop | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: No barbicide available for sanitizing equipment |
| 1. North Side 2nd Floor | Barber Shop | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Floor tile missing |
| 1. North Side 3rd Floor | Room # N301 | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling paint peeling |
| 1. North Side 3rd Floor | Room # N302 | 105 CMR 451.350\* | Structural Maintenance: Window damaged |
| 1. North Side 3rd Floor | Room # N303 | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Missing floor under the window |
| 1. Maintenance Cage | Maintenance Storage | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket |
| 1. Print Shop (off of Gym) | Office | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water stained |
| 1. Officer’s Weight Room | Hallway (outside) | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged |
| 1. Gym |  | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged |
| 1. Janitorial Closet |  | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles missing |

**Deficiencies under 105 CMR 451.402(B) (other conditions that may constitute a threat to health or safety)**

4 new deficiencies were found during the inspection:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Nurse’s Office | 105 CMR 451.402(B) | Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written procedures for maintaining compliance with 480.000. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A). |
| 1. Nurse’s Office | 105 CMR 451.402(B) | Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator lacked written procedures for safe handling within the facility. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A)(2). |
| 1. Nurse’s Office | 105 CMR 451.402(B) | Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written documentation for blood borne pathogen training. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A)(3). |
| 1. Nurse’s Office | 105 CMR 451.402(B) | Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written documentation of emergency contact information. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A)(4). |

**Annex**

**Deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series)**

2 new deficiencies and 1 repeat deficiency (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. First Floor | Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling fan dusty |
| 1. Basement | Inmate Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.110(A) | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No soap at handwash sink |
| 1. Basement | Inmate Bathroom | 105 CMR 451.110(A) | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No paper towels at handwash sink |

**Deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series)**

1 new deficiency was found during the inspection:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Basement | C-Tech Classroom | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wall paint peeling |

**SECTION 2: Areas Found to be in Compliance**

EHRS inspected 108 additional areas of the facility which were found to be in compliance.

**Section 3: Areas EHRS did not inspect**

EHRS did not inspect 6 areas of the facility because they were locked, in use, or under construction:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Main Building | South Side 1st Floor | Parole Office | Unable to Inspect – Locked |
| 1. Main Building | Second Floor Lobby | Assistant Superintendent’s Office | Unable to Inspect – In Use |
| 1. Main Building | Second Floor Lobby | Superintendent’s Office | Unable to Inspect – In Use |
| 1. Main Building | South Side 3rd Floor | Investigator’s Office | Unable to Inspect – Locked |
| 1. Main Building | North Side 2nd Floor | Counselor’s Office | Unable to Inspect – Locked |
| 1. Main Building | Hallway | Offices | Unable to Inspect – Locked |

**SECTION 4: Plan of Correction**

This facility does not comply with the Department’s regulations cited above. In accordance with 105 CMR 451.404, please submit a plan of correction within 10 working days of receipt of this notice which includes:

1. Specific corrective steps to be taken
2. A timetable for the corrective actions for larger projects
3. The date by which correction will be achieved
4. Any interim measures being implemented to ensure the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and facility staff
5. The plan should be signed by the Superintendent or Administrator and submitted to my attention, at the address listed above.

**SECTION 5: Observations and Recommendations**

1. The inmate population was 99 at the time of inspection.
2. The barber shop did not have any barbicide available to sanitize the equipment during the inspection. The EHRS recommends implementing a policy to ensure that equipment is cleaned and sanitized in between each use and barbicide is available at all times for use.
3. The facility was unable to produce written procedures that were site specific as it relates to assuring compliance with 105 CMR 480.000.

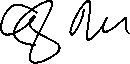
To review the specific regulatory requirements please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/dph/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/dph/dcs) and click on "Correctional Facilities" [105 CMR 451.000](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-45100-minimum-health-and-sanitation-standards-and-inspection-procedures-for-correctional-facilities) ~~is~~ available in both PDF and RTF formats. For more specific information about the food standards, you can download the merged food code, which can be found [here](https://www.mass.gov/doc/merged-food-code-111618/download).

An inspection may also include observations of other conditions which could constitute a threat to the health or safety of inmates or employees, including but not limited to the standards set forth by the Department as follows, and report on such pursuant to 451.402(B). You can use these links below to review these standards:

* [105 CMR 205.000](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-20500-minimum-standards-governing-medical-records-and-the-conduct-of-physical-examinations-in-correctional-facilities?_gl=1*ws80pz*_ga*MTk5MDEyMzUyMi4xNjM1NDMwMjU1*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTczNDY0MDg3Mi4yNzguMS4xNzM0NjQxNDE3LjAuMC4w): Minimum Standards Governing Medical Records and Conduct of Physical Examinations in Correctional Facilities
* [105 CMR 480.000](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-48000-minimum-requirements-for-the-management-of-medical-or-biological-waste-state-sanitary-code-chapter-viii?_gl=1*c27utb*_ga*MTk5MDEyMzUyMi4xNjM1NDMwMjU1*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTczNDY0MDg3Mi4yNzguMS4xNzM0NjQxNDQ5LjAuMC4w): Minimum requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste
* [105 CMR 500.000](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-50000-good-manufacturing-practices-for-food?_gl=1*ow2nps*_ga*MTk5MDEyMzUyMi4xNjM1NDMwMjU1*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTczNDY0MDg3Mi4yNzguMS4xNzM0NjQxNDg3LjAuMC4w): Good Manufacturing Practices for Food

This inspection report is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,



Amy Riordan, MPH

Senior Advisor, EHRS, BCEH