



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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January 6, 2025

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 September 25, 2024 accompanied by Sean Gallagher, EHSO and Lt. Joseph DiPietro, in accordance with Department regulations 105 CMR 451.000: Minimum Health and Sanitation Standards and Inspection Procedures for Correctional Facilities.

The inspection identified 67 total deficiencies; 41 new deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series), 10 repeat deficiencies under the Required Standards, 12 new deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series), and four repeat deficiencies under the Recommended Standards.

## 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 Violations**

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

41 new deficiencies and 10 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

#### **MAIN BUILDING**

1. Nurse's Office	Storage Closet	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Soap scum on walls in shower
2. Nurse's Office	Nurse's Bathroom	105 CMR 451.126	Hot Water: Hot water temperature 68°F at handwash sink
3. Control	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Wall damaged
4. South Side 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Female Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water stained
5. South Side 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.110(A)	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No paper towels at handwash sink
6. South Side 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Radiator rusted
7. South Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Hallway (near bathroom)	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
8. South Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # S203	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing
9. South Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Radiator rusted
10. South Side 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Hallway	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
11. North Side 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Female Visitor's Bathroom	105 CMR 451.110(A)	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No soap at handwash sink
12. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Hole in ceiling
13. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N202	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
14. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N206	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
15. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N207	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
16. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N209	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
17. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N210 (Left)	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
18. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout
19. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N210 (Right)	105 CMR 451.141*	Screens: Screen missing
20. North Side 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Room # N306	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing
21. North Side 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Hallway	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen not tight fitting
22. Maintenance Cage	Maintenance 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
23. Basement	Main Bathroom	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, handwash sink # 8 not working
24. Basement	Main Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Walls dirty in shower # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12
25. Basement	Main Bathroom	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, toilet # 5 damaged
26. Basement	Main Shower	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Wall dirty in showers # 1, 7, and 10
27. Basement	Main Shower	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout

28. Basement	Slop Sink	105 CMR 451.130*	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair; no hot water supplied to slop sink
29. Print Shop	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Handwash sink # 1 and 2 dirty
30. Print Shop	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink # 1 clogged
31. Officer's Weight Room	Female Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Baseboard damaged
32. Officer's Weight Room	Female Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, toilet constantly running
33. Officer's Weight Room	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.110(A)	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No paper towels at handwash sink
34. Officer's Weight Room	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Trash overflowing
35. Officer's Weight Room	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.117	Toilet Fixtures: Toilet fixtures dirty
36. 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 590.000; FC 4-501.11(B)
37. Kitchen	Main Area (freezer)	105 CMR 451.200*	Maintenance and Operation; Cleaning: Facility not properly cleaned: excessive ice build-up on floor in freezer. Standard found in 105 CMR 590.000; FC 6-501.12(A)

## **ANNEX**

1. First Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling fan dusty
2. Basement	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink # 3 leaking
3. Basement	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink # 7 constantly running

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

12 new deficiencies and 4 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were identified during the inspection:

## **MAIN BUILDING:**

1. South Side 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Room # S305	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Fan dusty
2. South Side 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Room # S305	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged
3. South Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # S211	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged
4. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Barber Shop	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Floor tile missing
5. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N205	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling
6. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Barber Shop	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Unlabeled chemical bottle
7. North Side 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Room # N203	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling tile

8.	North Side 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Room # N302	105 CMR 451.350	Structural Maintenance: Window damaged
9.	Maintenance Cage	Chemical Room	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Unlabeled chemical bottle
10.	Maintenance Cage	Maintenance Storage	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket
11.	Anti-Graffiti Garage		105 CMR 451.350	Structural Maintenance: Door not rodent and weathertight
12.	Basement	Laundry	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Washing machine # 1 leaking
13.	Basement	Laundry	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Standing fan dusty
14.	Basement	Laundry	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Mops drying over clean clothes
15.	Basement	Hallway (outside officer's weight room)	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling missing
16.	Inmate Gym		105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Padding damaged on all workout machines

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

EHRIS inspected an additional 90 areas which were found to be in compliance.

## **Section 3: Areas EHRIS did not inspect**

EHRIS did not inspect 3 areas of the facility because they were either in use, locked, or under construction.

1.	South Side 3rd Floor	Property Room	Unable to Inspect	Locked
2.	South Side 3rd Floor	Storage Closet	Unable to Inspect	Locked
3.	Inmate Gym	Barbershop	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. The Plan of Correction must include:

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 107 at the time of the inspection.

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](#) 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](#).

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](#): Minimum Standards Governing Medical Records and Conduct of Physical Examinations in Correctional Facilities
- [105 CMR 480.000](#): Minimum requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste
- [105 CMR 500.000](#): Good Manufacturing Practices for Food

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Riordan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amy Riordan, MPH  
Senior Advisor, EHRS, BCEH