

January 14, 2025

Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff

Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department

20 Bradston Street

Boston, MA 02118 (electronic copy)

Re: Facility Inspection – Suffolk County House of Corrections, Boston

Dear Sheriff Tompkins:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) conducted an inspection of the Suffolk County House of Corrections on November 9, 2024, accompanied by Sergeant Tyler Crocker, in accordance with Department regulations 105 CMR 451.000: Minimum Health and Sanitation Standards and Inspection Procedures for Correctional Facilities.

The inspection identified 131 total deficiencies: 77 deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series), 19 repeat deficiencies under the Required Standards, 19 deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series), and 16 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 violations.

**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)**

77 new deficiencies and 19 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Floor 6.5 | Gym |  | | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, single-use cups stored on floor | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Staff Bathroom 6-1 & 6-2 | | | 105 CMR 451.110(A) | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No soap at handwash sink | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Staff Bathroom 6-1 & 6-2 | | | 105 CMR 451.117 | Toilet Fixtures: Toilet fixture dirty | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1A | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 2, 6, and 8 | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Kitchenette | | 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. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Kitchenette | | 105 CMR 451.130 | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, hot water control leaking at handwash sink | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Shower # 618 – Bottom Tier, Right Side | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Light shield rusted | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Shower # 618 – Bottom Tier, Right Side | | 105 CMR 451.130 | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, drain cover damaged | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Shower # 618 – Bottom Tier, Right Side | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling dirty | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Shower # 711 - Top Tier, Left Side | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling paint damaged | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Shower # 711 - Top Tier, Left Side | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Wall paint damaged | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 12, 15, 18, 19, 27, 29, 32, and 35 | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD) | Shower # 63E | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Drain flies observed | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD) | Shower # 63E | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD) | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 21 | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD) | Kitchenette | | 105 CMR 451.126\* | Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: No hot water supplied to handwash sink | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Shower # 64D | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Shower # 64G | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Shower # 64G | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Wall paint damaged | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell 3 and 14 | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Medical Area | Nurse’s Area | | 105 CMR 451.130 | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, handwash sink out-of-order | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Medical Area | Bathroom # 5032 | | 105 CMR 451.126\* | Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: No hot water supplied to handwash sink; hot water push button broken | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Medical Housing Unit | Shower # 55C | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Ceiling dirty | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Medical Housing Unit | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 5559 | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552 | Cells # 5564-5570 | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 5567 | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552 | Shower # 55B | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Ceiling dirty | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552 | Shower # 55B | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Door frame rusted | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Shower # 41I | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, and 17 | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Shower # 42E (near cell # 15) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Shower # 42I (near cell # 32) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Shower # 42I (near cell # 32) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Debris in drain cover | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Shower # 42I (near cell # 32) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Wall damaged near push button | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Cells (Unoccupied) | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 8, 12, and 25 | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-3 | Shower # 43H | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-3 | Kitchenette | | 105 CMR 451.110(A) \* | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: Electric hand dryer out-of-order | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-3 | Shower # 43I (near cell # 20) | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-3 | Shower # 43E | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-3 | Shower # 43C | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Control 4-3 & 4-4 | Staff Bathroom | | 105 CMR 451.126\* | Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 72°F at handwash sink | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Kitchenette | | 105 CMR 451.130 | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, handwash sink leaking | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Kitchenette | | 105 CMR 451.110(A) \* | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: Electric hand dryer out-of-order | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Shower # 44I (near cell # 28) | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling dirty | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Shower # 44I (near cell # 28) | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Shower # 44H (near cell # 9) | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Shower # 44J (near Visiting Rooms) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Shower # 44B | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 9, 33, and 34 | |
| 1. Floor 3.5 | Education | Bathroom # 3521 | | 105 CMR 451.110(A) | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No paper towels at handwash sink | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22C (near slop sink room # 22D) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Dead drain flies observed on ceiling | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22C (near slop sink room # 22D) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22C (near slop sink room # 22D) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22E (near cell # 15) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Objectionable odor observed | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22E (near cell # 15) | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Shower curtain missing | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22H (near cell # 34) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Wall paint damaged | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Shower # 22I (near cell # 32) | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Walls dirty | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-2 | Cells | | 105 CMR 451.103 | Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 1, 5, 13, 15, and 17 | |
| 1. Contact Visits/Roll Call | Classification |  | | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, refrigerator gaskets moldy and damaged | |
| 1. Entry Level | Communications Office # 1080 | | | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, excessive ice build-up observed in freezer | |
| 1. Entry Level | Blue Shirt’s Locker Room # 1075 | | | 105 CMR 451.110(A) \* | Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: Electric hand dryer out-of-order | |
| 1. Entry Level | Blue Shirt’s Locker Room # 1075 | | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water damaged | |
| 1. Ground Level | Staff Bathroom # G5 | | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Ceiling vent dusty | |
| 1. Ground Level | Staff Bathroom # G5 | | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Wall paint damaged | |
| 1. Ground Level | Staff Bathroom # G5 | | | 105 CMR 451.123 | Maintenance: Ceiling water damaged | |
| 1. Ground Level | Back Gate Control # G80 | | | 105 CMR 451.200 | Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, excessive ice build-up in freezer | |
| 1. Ground Level | West Mechanical # G18 | | | 105 CMR 451.130\* | Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, hot water supply leaking | |
| 1. Ground Level | Laundry Room # G23/G29 | | | 105 CMR 451.123\* | Maintenance: Ceiling water damaged in store closet | |
| 1. Food Service | Oven and Steamer Hood Area | | 105 CMR 451.200 | | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, rodent droppings observed behind ovens. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). | |
| 1. Food Service | Storage Cage | | 105 CMR 451.200 | | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, rodent droppings observed. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). | |
| 1. Food Service | Vegetable Walk-in # 3 | | 105 CMR 451.200 | | Limitation of Growth of Organisms of Public Health Concern, Temperature and Time Control: Refrigerated time/temperature control for safety food prepared on site not clearly marked indicating the date or day by which the food shall be consumed or discarded (Pf). Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 3-501.17(A) | **Corrected on-site** |
| 1. Food Service | Vegetable Walk-in # 3 | | 105 CMR 451.200 | | Characteristics; Condition: Food not safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented (Pf), moldy produce observed. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 3-101.11. | **Corrected on-site** |
| 1. Food Service | Milk Walk-in # 4 | | 105 CMR 451.200 | | Preventing Contamination after Receiving; Preventing Food and Ingredient Contamination: Food not appropriately covered. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 3-302.11(A)(4). | **Corrected on-site** |
| 1. Food Service | Mop Cage | | 105 CMR 451.200 | | Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, rodent droppings observed. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A). | |

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

19 new deficiencies and 16 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1A | Storage Room # 61G | 105 CMR 451.360 | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1A | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1A | Slop Sink Room # 61B | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Slop Sink Room | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored upside down |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-1 | Second Floor Storage Room | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD) | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Handwash sink dirty |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD) | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Cells | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling dirty in cell # 17 |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Cells | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wall cent blocked in cell # 8, 11, and 27 |
| 1. 5th Floor | Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552 | Storage # 5555 | 105 CMR 451.383(B) | Fire Safety System: Facility not in compliance with 780 CMR Massachusetts Building Code provisions for fire safety |
| 1. 5th Floor | Medical Area | Male Staff Bathroom # 5093 | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Floor damaged outside bathroom |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.360 | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Handwash sink dirty |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Slop Sink Room # 41N | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Storage Closet | 105 CMR 451.360 | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Storage Closet | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.360 | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Common Area | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Mold observed on ceiling near closet # 44G |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Common Area | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wall mounted telephone # 1 out-of-order |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Common Area | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged near closet # 44G |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Kitchenette | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Closet # 44G | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Slop Sink Room # 44C | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored upside down |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Slop Sink Room # 44C | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Chemical bottle leaking |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-4 | Cells | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wall vent blocked in cell # 8 |
| 1. Entry Level | Weight Room # 1070 | | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Floor tiles damaged |
| 1. Ground Level | Store Room # G11 | | 105 CMR 451.353 | Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket |
| 1. Ground Level | Loading Dock # G26 | | 105 CMR 451.350\* | Structural Maintenance: Garage door not rodent and weathertight |
| 1. Ground Level | Loading Dock # G26 | | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed |
| 1. Ground Level | Garbage Room # G37 | | 105 CMR 451.350\* | Structural Maintenance: Garage door not rodent and weathertight |
| 1. Ground Level | Garbage Room # G37 | | 105 CMR 451.360\* | Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed on floor |
| 1. Ground Level | Boston Police Booking Area | | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles missing, and water damaged |
| 1. Ground Level | Male Booking Area | Control | 105 CMR 451.353\* | Interior Maintenance: Floor damaged |

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

EHRS inspected 102 additional areas of the facility which were found to be in compliance.

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

EHRS did not inspect 13 areas of the facility because they were either in use, locked, or under construction.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Floor 6.5 | Storage Room # 6504 | | Unable to Inspect - Locked | |
| 1. Floor 6.5 | Inmate Bathroom # 6505 | | Unable to Inspect - Not in Use | |
| 1. Floor 6.5 | Inmate Bathroom # 6506 | | Unable to Inspect - Not in Use | |
| 1. 6th Floor | Unit 6-4 | Storage Room # 64F | Unable to Inspect - Locked | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Medical Area | Room # 5029 | Unable to Inspect - In Use | | |
| 1. 5th Floor | Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552 | Shower # 55A | Unable to Inspect - In Use |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-1 | Shower # 41G (near cell # 10) | Unable to Inspect - In Use | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Storage Room # 42F | Unable to Inspect - Locked | |
| 1. 4th Floor | Unit 4-2 | Shower # 42G | Unable to Inspect - In Use | |
| 1. Floor 3.5 | Education | Bathroom # 3520 | Unable to Inspect - In Use | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-1 |  | Unable to Inspect - Under Construction | | | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-3 |  | Unable to Inspect - Under Construction | | | |
| 1. 2nd Floor | Unit 2-4 |  | Unable to Inspect - Under Construction | | | |

**SECTION 5: 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 lager 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 4: Observations and Recommendations**

1. The inmate population was 318 at the time of the inspection.
2. At the time of inspection, the EHRS recommended re-numbering all showers throughout the institution. This will assist the EHRS and Sheriff’s Department employees to better recognize where issues exist.

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,

Hannah LeBeau

Environmental Health Inspector, EHRS, BCEH