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Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards

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January 9, 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 October 11, 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:

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
2.	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
3.	6th Floor	Staff Bathroom 6-1 & 6-2		105 CMR 451.117	Toilet Fixtures: Toilet fixture dirty
4.	6th Floor	Unit 6-1A	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 2, 6, and 8
5.	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
6.	6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, hot water control leaking at handwash sink
7.	6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Shower # 618 – Bottom Tier, Right Side	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Light shield rusted
8.	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
9.	6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Shower # 618 – Bottom Tier, Right Side	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty
10.	6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Shower # 711 - Top Tier, Left Side	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling paint damaged
11.	6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Shower # 711 - Top Tier, Left Side	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Wall paint damaged
12.	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
13.	6th Floor	Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD)	Shower # 63E	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Drain flies observed
14.	6th Floor	Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD)	Shower # 63E	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
15.	6th Floor	Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD)	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 21
16.	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
17.	6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Shower # 64D	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Walls dirty
18.	6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Shower # 64G	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Walls dirty
19.	6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Shower # 64G	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Wall paint damaged
20.	6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell 3 and 14

21. 5th Floor	Medical Area	Nurse's Area	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, handwash sink out-of-order
22. 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
23. 5th Floor	Medical Housing Unit	Shower # 55C	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty
24. 5th Floor	Medical Housing Unit	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 5559
25. 5th Floor	Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552	Cells # 5564-5570	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 5567
26. 5th Floor	Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552	Shower # 55B	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty
27. 5th Floor	Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552	Shower # 55B	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Door frame rusted
28. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Shower # 41I	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
29. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, and 17
30. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Shower # 42E (near cell # 15)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
31. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Shower # 42I (near cell # 32)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
32. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Shower # 42I (near cell # 32)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Debris in drain cover
33. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Shower # 42I (near cell # 32)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Wall damaged near push button
34. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Cells (Unoccupied)	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 8, 12, and 25
35. 4th Floor	Unit 4-3	Shower # 43H	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
36. 4th Floor	Unit 4-3	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.110(A) *	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: Electric hand dryer out-of-order
37. 4th Floor	Unit 4-3	Shower # 43I (near cell # 20)	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Walls dirty
38. 4th Floor	Unit 4-3	Shower # 43E	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Walls dirty
39. 4th Floor	Unit 4-3	Shower # 43C	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Walls dirty
40. 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
41. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, handwash sink leaking
42. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.110(A) *	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: Electric hand dryer out-of-order
43. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Shower # 44I (near cell # 28)	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty

44. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Shower # 44I (near cell # 28)	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Walls dirty
45. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Shower # 44H (near cell # 9)	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Walls dirty
46. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Shower # 44J (near Visiting Rooms)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
47. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Shower # 44B	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
48. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 9, 33, and 34
49. Floor 3.5	Education	Bathroom # 3521	105 CMR 451.110(A)	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No paper towels at handwash sink
50. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22C (near slop sink room # 22D)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Dead drain flies observed on ceiling
51. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22C (near slop sink room # 22D)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
52. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22C (near slop sink room # 22D)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Walls dirty
53. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22E (near cell # 15)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Objectionable odor observed
54. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22E (near cell # 15)	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Shower curtain missing
55. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22H (near cell # 34)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Wall paint damaged
56. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Shower # 22I (near cell # 32)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Walls dirty
57. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-2	Cells	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress cover missing in cell # 1, 5, 13, 15, and 17
58. 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
59. 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
60. 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
61. Entry Level	Blue Shirt's Locker Room # 1075		105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water damaged
62. Ground Level	Staff Bathroom # G5		105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling vent dusty
63. Ground Level	Staff Bathroom # G5		105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Wall paint damaged

64. Ground Level	Staff Bathroom # G5	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling water damaged	
65. 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	
66. Ground Level	West Mechanical # G18	105 CMR 451.130*	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, hot water supply leaking	
67. Ground Level	Laundry Room # G23/G29	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling water damaged in store closet	
68. 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).	
69. 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).	
70. 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
71. 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
72. Food Service	Milk Walk-in # 4	105 CMR 451.200	Preventing Contamination after Receiving; Preventing Food and Ingredient Contamination: Food not appropriately covered.	Corrected on-site

				Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 3-302.11(A)(4).
73. 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:

1. 6th Floor	Unit 6-1A	Storage Room # 61G	105 CMR 451.360	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
2. 6th Floor	Unit 6-1A	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
3. 6th Floor	Unit 6-1A	Slop Sink Room # 61B	105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
4. 6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Slop Sink Room	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored upside down
5. 6th Floor	Unit 6-1	Second Floor Storage Room	105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
6. 6th Floor	Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD)	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Handwash sink dirty
7. 6th Floor	Unit 6-3 (Safekeep for BPD)	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
8. 6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Cells	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling dirty in cell # 17
9. 6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Cells	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall cent blocked in cell # 8, 11, and 27
10. 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
11. 5th Floor	Medical Area	Male Staff Bathroom # 5093	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Floor damaged outside bathroom
12. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.360	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
13. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Handwash sink dirty
14. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Slop Sink Room # 41N	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket
15. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Storage Closet	105 CMR 451.360	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
16. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Storage Closet	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket
17. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.360	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed

18. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Common Area	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Mold observed on ceiling near closet # 44G
19. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Common Area	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall mounted telephone # 1 out-of-order
20. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Common Area	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged near closet # 44G
21. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Kitchenette	105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
22. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Closet # 44G	105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
23. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Slop Sink Room # 44C	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored upside down
24. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Slop Sink Room # 44C	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Chemical bottle leaking
25. 4th Floor	Unit 4-4	Cells	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall vent blocked in cell # 8
26. Entry Level	Weight Room # 1070		105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Floor tiles damaged
27. Ground Level	Store Room # G11		105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket
28. Ground Level	Loading Dock # G26		105 CMR 451.350*	Structural Maintenance: Garage door not rodent and weathertight
29. Ground Level	Loading Dock # G26		105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed
30. Ground Level	Garbage Room # G37		105 CMR 451.350*	Structural Maintenance: Garage door not rodent and weathertight
31. Ground Level	Garbage Room # G37		105 CMR 451.360*	Protective Measures: Rodent droppings observed on floor
32. Ground Level	Boston Police Booking Area		105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles missing, and water damaged
33. 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.

1. Floor 6.5	Storage Room # 6504		Unable to Inspect - Locked
2. Floor 6.5	Inmate Bathroom # 6505		Unable to Inspect - Not in Use
3. Floor 6.5	Inmate Bathroom # 6506		Unable to Inspect - Not in Use
4. 6th Floor	Unit 6-4	Storage Room # 64F	Unable to Inspect - Locked
5. 5th Floor	Medical Area	Room # 5029	Unable to Inspect - In Use
6. 5th Floor	Psychiatric Housing Unit # 5552	Shower # 55A	Unable to Inspect - In Use
7. 4th Floor	Unit 4-1	Shower # 41G (near cell # 10)	Unable to Inspect - In Use
8. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Storage Room # 42F	Unable to Inspect - Locked
9. 4th Floor	Unit 4-2	Shower # 42G	Unable to Inspect - In Use

10. Floor 3.5	Education	Bathroom # 3520	Unable to Inspect - In Use
11. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-1		Unable to Inspect - Under Construction
12. 2nd Floor	Unit 2-3		Unable to Inspect - Under Construction
13. 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 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 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 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,



Hannah LeBeau
Environmental Health Inspector, EHRS, BCEH