

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619
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Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA
Secretary

Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner

September 11, 2026

To: Shawn Jenkins, Commissioner, Department of Corrections (electronic copy)
Kiame Mahaniah, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (electronic copy)
Clerk, Massachusetts House of Representatives (electronic copy)
Clerk, Massachusetts Senate (electronic copy)
Michael Rosano, Environmental Health and Safety Officer (electronic copy)

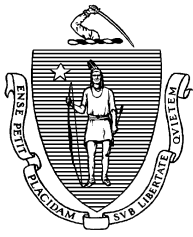
Greetings,

Pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403, please find the heat audit report for Bridgewater State Hospital from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS).

Sincerely,

Patrick Wallace
Environmental Analyst, EHRS, BCEH

Cc: Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD, Commissioner, DPH (electronic copy)
Gina K. Kwon, Secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (electronic copy)
Eric Badger, Health Agent, Bridgewater Health Department (electronic copy)
Brianna Arruda, Director, Policy Development and Compliance Unit (electronic copy)
Jeffrey Gonsalves, Superintendent (electronic copy)
James Rioux, Deputy Superintendent (electronic copy)



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July 14, 2026

Jeffrey Gonsalves, Superintendent
Bridgewater State Hospital
20 Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA

(electronic copy)

Re: Heat Audit of Health Services Unit – Bridgewater State Hospital

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS), in accordance with 105 CMR 451.401 and 105 CMR 451.408, may conduct inspections, referred to as heat audits, at correctional facilities. In response to a complaint allegation regarding extreme heat, EHRS staff conducted a heat audit of the Health Services Unit at Bridgewater State Hospital on July 2, 2026, accompanied by James Rioux, Deputy Superintendent.

Heat audits are conducted to assess the conditions and mitigation protocols within correctional facilities during periods of extreme heat. A heat audit includes the:

1. Assessment and confirmation of reported mitigation protocols that the facility has implemented to address extreme heat, including:
 - a. Availability of ice and water;
 - b. Access to personal fans;
 - c. Locations of existing secondary ventilation sources (openable windows, wall mounted fans, and stationary floor fans);
 - d. Access to showers;
 - e. Access to outdoor areas (when natural shade is not available, artificial shaded areas should be created with canopies); and
 - f. Ability to conduct internal proactive air temperature and relative humidity testing.
2. Identification of Health and Safety deficiencies that may impact air recirculation and cooling.
3. Confirmation of functional mechanical ventilation, where available.
4. Temperature and Relative Humidity measurements within the housing units, health services unit, or other areas of concern.

Complaint Allegation:

On July 1, 2026, the EHRS received a complaint from Prisoner's Legal Service (PLS) regarding extreme heat, lack of air conditioning, non-functioning air conditioning, lack of ventilation, and lack of access to ice and/or water. PLS specifically asked that we prioritize locations where vulnerable populations are housed, such as in nursing and mental health units.

Overview

Section 1 identifies the unhealthy heat mitigation protocols implemented by the facility at the time of the audit.

Section 2 identifies any health and safety deficiencies identified during the inspection.

Section 3 provides information on submitting a Plan of Correction for any identified deficiencies.

Section 4 identifies the areas in which the air temperature and relative humidity measurements were taken by Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), along with the results of those measurements.

Section 5 outlines observations and recommendations related to the heat audit.

SECTION 1: Confirmed Mitigation Protocols

During the Heat Audit, EHRS staff observed the following measures taken by the facility to mitigate the extreme heat:

- 2 functional ice machines
- Multiple large misting fans were observed outside
- Chilled water stations were located in each housing unit
- Multiple fans were observed
- Gatorade and frozen treats were being distributed to incarcerated individuals
- The facility confirmed that air temperature readings were being taken 3 times a day

SECTION 2: Health and Safety Deficiencies

EHRS did not note any deficiencies related to 105 CMR 451.000.

SECTION 3: Plan of Correction

A plan of correction is not required.

SECTION 4: Heat Audit Results for Air Temperature and Relative Humidity

EHRS Staff audited the following locations to document the air temperature and relative humidity

Temperature Testing Log			
Time	Location	Temperature (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)
12:00 PM	Outside Facility Entrance	93	52
12:20 PM	HSU Lobby	88	54
12:22 PM	HSU East Hallway	81	64
12:26 PM	Room # 6	82	65
12:27 PM	Dorm # 10	81	64
12:29 PM	Dorm # 8	81	63
12:31 PM	Day Room	80	63
12:33 PM	Dorm # 5	79	65
12:35 PM	Nurse's Station	78	65
12:37 PM	Dorm # 2	80	70
12:39 PM	Dorm # 4	79	62
12:41 PM	Dorm # 1	80	68
12:51 PM	Outside Facility Entrance	98	43

SECTION 5: Observations and Recommendations

1. At the time of the audit, the EHRS requested a copy the facility's Unhealthy Heat Management Plan and received it.
2. There is a portable AC unit within the Nurse's Station inside the HSU. The facility has also purchased and received a new ceiling AC unit for the Nurse's Station and several more for other areas of the HSU that will be installed in the near future.
3. With several beds available within HSU, EHRS recommends, in accordance with page 7 of the On-Site Unhealthy Heat Management Plan, medical staff consider using these beds proactively to house individuals who are at greater risk of heat related illness.
4. EHRS also observed 2 large industrial fans in the hallway of the HSU, as well as personal fans next to the bed of each patient that wanted one.
5. Each housing building at the facility, including the HSU building, has a large, conditioned air system on the exterior of the building that conditions the air inside beginning on June 15th and throughout the summer months.

During periods of extreme heat, there is the potential for an increase in detrimental health conditions (e.g., heat stress, heat stroke) among facility staff and incarcerated individuals within the Commonwealth's correctional system. During future heat events, EHRS recommends the continued implementation of the heat mitigation measures that were observed during the heat audit.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wallace
Environmental Health Officer, EHRS, BCEH