

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619
617-624-6000 | mass.gov/dph

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA
Secretary

Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner

September 30, 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)
Matthew Lonergan, Environmental Health and Safety Officer (electronic copy)

Greetings,

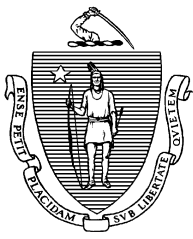
Pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403, please find the heat audit report for Old Colony Correctional Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility, and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Wallace".

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 J. Badger, Health Agent, Bridgewater Board of Health (electronic copy)
Brianna Arruda, Director, Policy Development and Compliance Unit (electronic copy)
James Rioux, Acting Superintendent (electronic copy)



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July 14, 2026

Jeffrey Gonsalves, Superintendent
Old Colony Correctional Center
1 Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA

(electronic copy)

Re: Heat Audit of Health Services Unit – Old Colony Correctional Center

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 Old Colony Correctional Center on July 2, 2026, accompanied by Jared Silva, Maintenance, Rhonda Cummings, Director of Security and Officer Matther Roderiques.

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
- Gatorade and frozen treats were being distributed to incarcerated individuals
- The facility confirmed that air temperature readings were being taken 3 times a day
- Outdoor recreation was suspended in the afternoon to avoid the extreme heat

SECTION 2: Health and Safety Deficiencies

Deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series)

3 new deficiency was found during the inspection:

Area	Regulation	Description of Deficiency
1. HSU	105 CMR 451.140	Adequate Ventilation: Inadequate ventilation, AC Unit not functioning properly
2. Administration	105 CMR 451.140	Adequate Ventilation: Inadequate ventilation, AC Unit not functioning properly
3. Visiting Room	105 CMR 451.140	Adequate Ventilation: Inadequate ventilation, AC Unit not functioning properly

SECTION 3: 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. A signature by the Superintendent or Administrator responsible for the plan. The signed plan should be submitted to my attention, at the address listed above.

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

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

Temperature Testing Log			
Time	Location	Temperature (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)
1:00 PM	Outside Facility Entrance	103	36
1:20 PM	Hallway outside HSU	89	52
1:22 PM	Hallway inside HSU	85	53
1:25 PM	Ward # D2-60	83	60
1:27 PM	Cell # G-2	82	61
1:29 PM	Cell # G-3	81	58
1:32 PM	Cell # G-5	81	60
1:34 PM	Cell # G-4	81	62
1:36 PM	Physical Therapy	82	59
1:40 PM	Nurse Practitioner D2-28	81	59
1:42 PM	Officer's Trap	82	60
1:44 PM	Nurse's Station	82	57
1:55 PM	Administration 2 nd Floor Hallway	89	56
2:10 PM	Outside Facility Entrance	98	43

SECTION 5: Observations and Recommendations

1. At the time of the audit, the EHRHS requested a copy of the facility's Unhealthy Heat Management Plan and received it.
2. There were recently 3 new roof top air conditioning units installed on the HSU, the Visiting Room, and the Administration Building. The units were turned on July 1, 2026, but had an operational default and required repairs that kept them offline until July 2, 2026, prior to the arrival of EHRHS staff. The portable AC units that were previously being used within the HSU had already been removed in order to test the new system. The rooftop unit on the HSU and the Visiting Room are both currently operating at 50% and will be until mid-July when the manufacturer can come out to complete the repairs needed. The administration building still has no air conditioning, the facility is working with the manufacturer to expedite repairs. Once repairs are completed, the system is expected to be operating at 50% capacity until mid-July.
3. There are portable AC units operational within the Nurse's Station inside the HSU, and more units available for use within the HSU, if necessary.
4. With several beds available within HSU, EHRHS 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.
5. EHRHS also observed 2 large industrial fans in the hallway of the HSU.

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, EHRHS recommends the continued implementation of the heat mitigation measures that were observed during the heat audit.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wallace
Environmental Health Officer, EHRHS, BCEH



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety & Security
Department of Correction
Old Colony Correctional Center
One Administration Rd.
Bridgewater, MA 02324
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Commissioner

Patrick Wallace, Environmental Health Officer, EHRS, BCEH
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Corrective Action Response to Heat Audit Results for Air Temperature and Relative Humidity Audit – Old Colony Correctional Center

Dear Mr. Wallace,

Please see the plan of correction below from the Heat Audit conducted in response to complaints received by your office on July 1, 2026.

Deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series)

3 new deficiencies were found during the inspection:

Area	Regulation	Description of Deficiency
1. HSU	105 CMR 451.140	Adequate Ventilation: Inadequate ventilation, AC Unit not functioning properly Plan of Correction: At the time of the heat audit, the rooftop air conditioning unit was scheduled to be commissioned by the vendor on July 20, 2026. The vendor rescheduled the commissioning of the unit to July 21st. On July 21st the vendor was unable to rectify high head pressure faults that shut the system down. The vendor required an additional

tech to assist with troubleshooting and requested a call with the system designer at FW Webb to review piping diagram and possible airflow/coil designs. As of July 24th, facility maintenance personnel, Division of Resource Management, and the vendor technicians have made several repairs to get the unit operational, however due to unforeseen manufacturer defects, the return air continues to be too high thus inhibiting the units functionality. The vendor has committed to returning to the facility daily to work on a solution until such time that the unit is operating at full capacity.

2. Administration

105 CMR 451.140

Adequate Ventilation:

Inadequate ventilation, AC Unit not functioning properly

Plan of Correction: At the time of the audit, the unit was anticipated to be ready for the vendor to commission on July 22nd. Upon their arrival, a manufacturer defect was identified with the piping being crossed and a leak was discovered on one of the compressors.

As of July 24th the vendor along with facility maintenance personnel and Division of Resource Management were actively correcting the defects with the piping and were waiting for parts for the compressor which are expected to be delivered on Monday, July 27, 2026.

3. Visiting Room

105 CMR 451.140

Once the manufacturer defects have been remedied the anticipated commissioning of the unit is between July 27th and July 29th. However, the vendor has committed to returning to the facility and working daily until such time the rooftop unit is operating at full capacity.

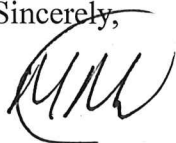
Adequate Ventilation:

Inadequate ventilation, AC Unit not functioning properly

Plan of Correction: At the time of the heat audit, the rooftop air conditioning unit was scheduled to be commissioned by the vendor on July 20, 2026. The vendor rescheduled the commissioning of the unit to July 21st. On July 21st the vendor was unable to rectify high head pressure faults that shut the system down. The vendor required an additional tech to assist with troubleshooting and requested a call with the system designer at FW Webb to review piping diagram and possible airflow/coil designs. As of July 24th the vendor along with facility maintenance personnel and Division of Resource Management waiting for parts for the compressor which are expected to be delivered on Monday, July 27, 2026. Once the manufacturer defects have been remedied the anticipated commissioning of the unit is between July 27th and July 28th. However, the vendor has committed to returning to the facility and working daily until such time the rooftop unit is operating at full capacity.

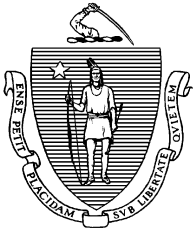
If you require additional information or have further questions please feel free to contact the facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM', enclosed within a circular flourish.

Michael McDonald
Acting Superintendent

cc: Jeffrey L. Gonsalves, Superintendent
Nolan Griffiths, FSA
Carl Palmaccio, Director of Facility Maintenance
Sgt Mathew Lonergan, EHSO/FSO
File



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July 30, 2026

Jeffrey Gonsalves, Superintendent
Old Colony Correctional Center
1 Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324 (electronic copy)

Re: Plan of Correction – Old Colony Correctional Center, Bridgewater

Dear Superintendent Gonsalves:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) has received your Plan of Correction (POC) in response to the Heat Audit conducted on July 2, 2026. After review, the EHRS finds the plan does not appropriately address all of the violations noted in the report.

Please provide an estimated date of completion for repairs to all air conditioning units noted in the report.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, should you have any questions please contact me at the address listed above.

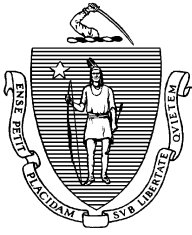
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Wallace".

Patrick Wallace
Environmental Analyst, EHRS, BCEH

cc: Matthew Lonergan, EHSO/FSO

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September 14, 2026

Jeffrey Gonsalves, Superintendent
Old Colony Correctional Center
1 Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324 (electronic copy)

Re: Plan of Correction – Old Colony Correctional Center, Bridgewater

Dear Superintendent Gonsalves:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (BCEH), Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) received an incomplete Plan of Correction from your facility on July 24, 2026, in response to my heat audit on July 2, 2026. On July 30, 2026, a response was sent which outlined the deficiencies in your POC and detailed the necessary requirements for acceptance. To date we have not received an updated POC which addresses the outstanding deficiencies. Please submit a revised POC to my attention.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, should you have any questions please contact me at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Wallace".

Patrick Wallace
Environmental Analyst, EHRS, BCEH

cc: Matthew Lonergan, EHSO/FSO

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September 21, 2026

Patrick Wallace
Environmental Health Officer, EHRS, BCEH
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Plan of Correction – Heat Audit of Old Colony Correctional Center

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Old Colony Correctional Center has reviewed the health and safety deficiencies identified in Section 2 of the Department of Public Health Heat Audit Report dated July 14, 2026. The deficiencies cited under 105 CMR 451.140 involved inadequate ventilation associated with air-conditioning units serving the Health Services Unit, Administration Building, and Visiting Room.

The Health Services Unit rooftop air-conditioning system has been repaired and is currently operating at 100% capacity. Corrective action for this area is complete as of September 21, 2026. Facility staff will continue routine temperature monitoring and will maintain portable cooling equipment for contingency use during periods of extreme heat.

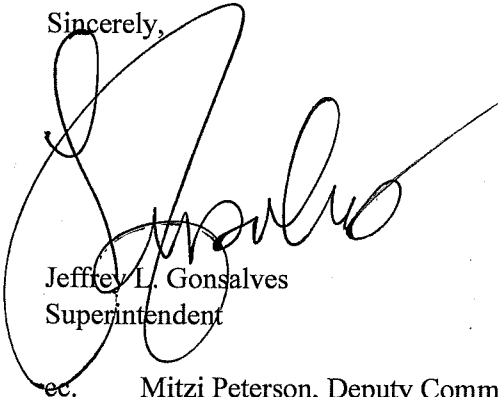
The Visiting Room rooftop air-conditioning system has also been repaired and is currently operating at 100% capacity. Corrective action for this area is complete as of September 21, 2026. Routine temperature monitoring and established heat-mitigation measures will continue as needed.

The Administration Building rooftop air-conditioning system is awaiting the required replacement part. In the interim, conditioned air is being supplied through temporary commercial air-conditioning units. These temporary units will remain in operation until the permanent rooftop system is fully repaired and verified to be functioning properly. Maintenance will continue to coordinate with the vendor and review the repair status weekly. Upon receipt of the replacement part, installation will be scheduled promptly, with system testing and operational verification to be completed within five business days following installation.

The facility will continue to monitor indoor temperature conditions and maintain all necessary interim heat-mitigation measures until the Administration Building's permanent air-conditioning system is fully operational. Documentation of the completed repair and verification of proper system operation will be retained upon completion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

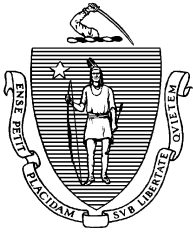
Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Gonsalves', is written over the typed name and title.

Jeffrey L. Gonsalves
Superintendent

cc.

Mitzi Peterson, Deputy Commissioner
Michael Rodrigues, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Brianna Arruda, Director PDCU
Deputy Superintendent Operations, OCCC
EHSO, OCCC



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September 28, 2026

Jeffrey Gonsalves, Superintendent
Old Colony Correctional Center
1 Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324 (electronic copy)

Re: Plan of Correction – Old Colony Correctional Center, Bridgewater

Dear Superintendent Gonsalves:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) has received your Plan of Correction (POC) dated September 21, 2026. After review, the EHRS finds the plan appropriately addresses all of the violations noted in the report.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, should you have any questions please contact me at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Wallace".

Patrick Wallace
Environmental Analyst, EHRS, BCEH

cc: Matthew Lonergan, EHSO/FSO

(electronic copy)