



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
Community Sanitation Program
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September 14, 2021

Lisa Whelan, Superintendent
MASAC in Plymouth
Myles Standish State Forest
Plymouth, MA 02360 (electronic copy)

Re: Plan of Correction – MASAC in Plymouth

Dear Superintendent Whelan:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Community Sanitation Program (CSP) has received your Plan of Correction in response to my inspection on June 22, 2021. After review, the CSP finds the plan appropriately addresses all of the violations noted in the report with the following exceptions:

1. Where you indicate “Gensler study report shows a construction start on 6/22/2022,” the CSP remains concerned with the excessive time frame determined for these projects and we would like to be informed of the interim measures implemented by your facility to ensure the health and safety of inmates and staff in these areas.
2. Where you indicate “toilet and hand wash facilities are located within close proximity to this area when requested,” the CSP has concluded that use of these facilities outside the Exterior Trailer “when requested” does not comply with minimum standards. In accordance with 105 CMR 451.109 and 451.112, “adequate and conveniently located toilet and handwash facilities shall be provided for all inmates and employees” as well as “each inmate and each employee shall have access to a toilet and handwash sink at all times.” The CSP remains concerned with the lack of toilet and handwash facilities in the Exterior Trailer and we ask that you provide additional corrective actions to appropriately address the violations noted.
3. Where you indicate “unimpeded access to toilet and handwash facilities are located within close proximity to this area,” for the Medical Treatment Room near Central Control, and the Medication Room/Lab and Exam Rooms in the HSU inside C Dorm, the CSP remains concerned with the lack of a handwash sink available to medical staff. In addition to 105 CMR 451.109 and 451.112, the CSP also refers to 105 CMR 205.103 where it states that the required examination room “shall contain a handwash sink with hot and cold running water.” The CSP does not feel the provided handwash sink and toilet facilities are convenient for medical staff as they are shared by all other employees and may not be readily available as needed. The CSP recommends installing convenient handwash sinks in all areas where medical treatment is provided for the medical staff to utilize at all times.
4. The CSP appreciates the numerous, ongoing construction projects throughout your facility, including the installation of two staff toilet and handwash facilities in the lower camp area. The CSP remains concerned with the usage of the portable toilets and portable handwash sinks outside the Counselor Building for staff. We request to be kept apprised of the bathroom installation project in the lower camp area, as well as the removal of the portable toilets and handwash sinks.
5. In regards to the issue of overcrowding, the Department appreciates the limitations of correctional facilities and the need to accommodate the ever-increasing population; however we remain concerned with the overcrowded conditions.

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

Sincerely,



Nicholas Gale
Environmental Analyst, CSP, BEH

cc: Margret R. Cooke, Acting Commissioner, DPH
Jan Sullivan, Acting Director, BEH
Steven Hughes, Director, CSP, BEH
Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (electronic copy)
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