

Internal Memo

Date: November 13, 2025
To: Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons
From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

RE: November Update on MCF-Stillwater

Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF) - Stillwater is currently in Phase 1 of the prison's phased closure plan. We do not anticipate a need for further large-scale transfers of the facility's incarcerated population for some time. The facility will continue to focus on stability and planning for next steps. We recognize that this has been a trying time for many people, and we are thankful for everyone's patience and understanding.

Programming at Stillwater

The Earned Living Units (ELUs) are fully up and running. The individuals who live in these units have access to new incentives such as vending machines, expanded canteen options, and more. As people leave incarceration, more spots will become available. We encourage everyone to continue in their programming, treatment, work, and other pro-social activities.

The Atlantis substance use treatment program is now at its full increased capacity. Expanding this unit has increased access to substance use disorder treatment across the agency.

Other DOC Facilities

DOC staff are working hard to increase opportunities for incarcerated people across all facilities – in work assignments, treatment, programming, and more. Although change can be slow and difficult, the DOC continues to evaluate ways to increase opportunities for incarcerated people to succeed.

Future Communications

Monthly updates will continue. Thank you for your patience and participation as the DOC strives to make changes both safely and thoughtfully to better serve incarcerated individuals and their families.