



Memo

Date: May 20, 2025

To: Friends and family of the incarcerated population

From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

RE: Phased Closure of MCF-Stillwater

Legislative Leaders along with Governor Walz have agreed to a long-term closure of MCF-Stillwater that will take place over the next four years. Know that incarcerated people will be gradually moved to other facilities and the same tools already used to communicate transfers will be used for MCF-Stillwater.

The state needs to consolidate the state's prison facilities to enhance the DOC's economic efficiency, to end state investments into the crumbling infrastructure at MCF-Stillwater, and to minimize the ongoing health and safety concerns the facility presents to both staff and the incarcerated population.

MCF-Stillwater — due to its age, deteriorating condition, and significant ongoing maintenance needs — is no longer sustainable as part of Minnesota's correctional system. Continued investment in this facility would not meet the state's standards for safety, efficiency, or responsible resource management.

Based on the legislative agreement, DOC is planning a two-phase approach to wind down operations and ultimately close MCF-Stillwater. The phased approach allows DOC to manage the closure responsibly and to minimize disruption to staff and incarcerated people.

Once the public safety omnibus bill becomes law, the closure will happen over the next four years. Complete closure of the facility is expected by June 30, 2029. Over this time frame, Stillwater's incarcerated population will be gradually transferred to one of the DOC's other nine male facilities with careful consideration for the most appropriate placement for each person. The DOC is committed to minimizing disruption and ensuring a safe, respectful, and orderly transition. There will be no early releases due to the facility closing.

We will continue to communicate openly as the process unfolds and will provide updates as more information becomes available.