

The New York City Department of Correction (“the Department”) is notifying the New York City Board of Correction (“the Board”) of a declaration of an emergency variance pursuant to §1-15b(3) of the Board’s Minimum Standards. A burst pipe affecting the Manhattan Detention Center (“MDC”) in the afternoon of March 5, 2020 continues to impact the delivery of certain services at the facility. As a result, the Department is unable to comply with the following Board Minimum Standards as they apply to the current operation of MDC: §1-06 Recreation (North Tower only), §1-07(c) Congregate Religious Services, §1-08(c)(4) Incoming Legal Mail (North Tower only), §1-08(f-h) Law Library (North Tower only), §1-09 Visiting, and §1-11(d) Incoming Correspondence (North Tower only).

Maintaining the safety and security of individuals in custody and staff is a critical function and responsibility of the Department. The Department took immediate action following the occurrence of the burst pipe in order to mitigate any risk to individuals in custody and staff. The Department continues to address the situation in order to minimize service delivery interruptions and to ensure the resumption of full service operations as soon as possible. The Department is making every effort to deliver all possible services while the situation is addressed. The Department will continue to ensure the Department’s website is updated with current information regarding impacts on MDC family visits.

The Department will continue to provide the Board with information on the situation and will provide notice once full operations resume. At this time, however, the nature of the emergency situation prevents the Department’s continued compliance with the Minimum Standards enumerated above. The Department appreciates the Board’s consideration of this matter.