



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the State Inspector General

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June 22, 2026

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Spanberger,

The Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) conducted an unannounced inspection of Patrick Henry Correctional Unit. This report includes a summary of the factors listed in *Code of Virginia* § 53.1-17.6 (B), recommendations, safety and compliance classification, recommended timeline for the next inspection, and the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) response to the inspection.

Inspection Report: Patrick Henry Correctional Unit
March 25, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Background

Patrick Henry Correctional Unit is a Level I minimum-security facility located in Ridgeway, Virginia. The facility is currently undergoing Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning upgrades, including the installation of air conditioning and new windows. Inmates at this facility are engaged in structured work assignments. The facility has an operational capacity of 50 male inmates. At the time of inspection, 48 male inmates were housed at the facility. The facility currently does not have a Restorative Housing Unit.

Inspection Scope

The inspection was not intended to assess compliance with legislative or regulatory requirements, nor assess compliance with VADOC policies, though both were considered where relevant. The facility tour was completed with the Superintendent and the Lieutenant. The

inspection included a walkthrough of the facility, observation of operations, and discussions with facility staff and inmates. The areas examined during this inspection included administration, basement, commissary, recreation, laundry area, food services, medical unit, housing, educational and vocational programming, and visitation.

The inspection methodologies employed during the assessment were multifaceted and designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the facility's operations and environment. The inspection team used a variety of methods to gain an understanding of daily life and operations at the facility. These included inquiries and conversations with staff and inmates, as well as extensive on-site observations. Inspectors observed how staff and inmates interacted and paid attention to how procedures were followed throughout the facility.

To complement on-site observations, the inspectors reviewed a range of facility documents. These included a food establishment inspection report, records of completed and pending work orders, data on counselor and educational program enrollments and completions, and current recreation schedules. This documentation offered valuable context and deeper insight into the facility's operations and compliance practices.

Complaint, Grievance, and Administrative Remedies Procedures

Inmates have access to the facility's complaint, grievance, and administrative remedies process. Standardized forms for submitting complaints or grievances are available in the desk drawer outside of the housing unit as well as in the hanging wall file. Completed grievance forms can be submitted via secure drop boxes, which are located outside of the housing pods. Since the creation of the OSIG Ombudsman Unit, no complaints have been filed with OSIG.

Educational and Rehabilitative Programming

The facility provides a structured array of educational and rehabilitative programs. Recent program completions include ServSafe certification, the Recovery Route program, and a vocational electrical training program. Re-entry services are delivered through the InsideOut Dads curriculum, and individuals may participate in the Citizenship Journal, an interactive independent study program. The facility intends to expand its programming, including the implementation of Decision Points, pending the hiring of two additional counselors.

Food Services

The facility contains two cafeterias, one designated for staff and the other for inmates. The lunch meal on the day of the inspection consisted of peanut butter and jelly, lunch meat, bread, mustard, chocolate wafers, carrots, and an apple. Coolers are used to transport cold meals for inmates assigned to work outside the facility. Inmates working in the kitchen were observed wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves and hair nets. Inside the kitchen, overall cleanliness was observed, and the dining room floors were clean and well

maintained. During the inspection, inspectors noted that a ServSafe instructional class was in progress.

Housing

The facility consists of a single housing unit divided into two pods, A Side and B Side. The housing unit consisted of a 48-bed, open layout. The A side of the housing unit was closed for occupancy due to ongoing construction, although it remained partially accessible for recreational use. Each housing pod contained televisions, telephones, JPay stations, video kiosks, and bulletin boards. A grievance mailbox is located outside the housing units. The facility also maintains a cool down room and three segregation cells if needed.

Basement/Commissary/Recreation

The basement level of the facility served as a multi-purpose activity area and included an indoor recreation space, barbering station, and a washer and dryer where personal laundry is completed by inmates. The recreation area was equipped with tables, exercise equipment, corn hole, and pool tables. At the time of inspection, new windows were being installed on the basement floor, limiting inmate access to the area. Commissary is distributed in the basement.

Medical

The Medical unit consisted of a single medical bed and served as the primary location for triage and evaluation of inmate sick calls. One on-site nurse is responsible for routine care, assessments, and follow-up appointments. A physician visits the facility twice a month. The facility does not have on-site dental services; however, dental clinics are held every six months within the visitation area by an outside provider. When dental care is needed outside of the routine six-month schedule, inmates are transported to Beaumont Correctional Center for dental services.

Safety and Security

The facility uses standard safety and security measures, including perimeter controls, restricted access, and internal monitoring. All visitors are required to sign the logbook, pass through a metal detector, and undergo a pat-down search. These procedures apply to everyone entering the facility. The facility does not have perimeter cameras, and the front entrance lacks a body scanner because of space limitations. The facility does have a walk-through metal detector within the visitation area.

Visitation

The visitation area is a large multi-purpose room that is also used periodically for programming and religious services. Visitors enter a separate entrance and pass through metal detection equipment. The facility maintains strict security procedures throughout the visitation process.

Video visitation stations are located within the housing units. The visitation room contained five seating areas equipped with tables and chairs.

Additional Information

As validated by the Department's Research Unit on May 6, 2026:

- **Staffing:** The facility employs a total of 43 staff, with two vacancies. At the time of the inspection nine security staff and 11 non-security personnel were present. One staff member received disciplinary action within the past year. The average tenure of correctional staff was 11 years. *VADOC provided the staff-to-inmate ratio at the facility; however, due to security concerns, this information will not be publicly reported.*
- **Lockdowns:** Over the past three years, the facility underwent seven lockdowns, with the most recent scheduled full lockdown occurring on March 19, 2026. Between March 26, 2025, and March 25, 2026, there were two lockdowns. No instances of over-detention among inmates were reported at the facility.
- **Physical/Sexual Assaults/Deaths:** Between March 26, 2025, and March 25, 2026, the facility reported no serious assaults to either staff or inmates and no sexual assaults involving either staff or inmates. A review of the three-year period from March 26, 2023, through March 25, 2026, found no serious assaults and one serious assault on an inmate. During the same period, there were no allegations of sexual assaults. During the most recent one-year review period, the facility recorded no inmate or staff deaths, and over the corresponding three-year period, there were no staff deaths that occurred on the facility premises.
- **Visitations:** Between March 26, 2025, and March 25, 2026, the facility scheduled 468 in-person visitation requests, with zero denials during that period. The facility also scheduled 1,740 video visitation requests and recorded two video visitation denials due to inappropriate behavior during previous visit.

Recommendations

Based on observations made during the inspection, OSIG recommends the following:

- The facility should consider installing security cameras around the perimeter of the facility to adequately observe movement, deter unauthorized activity, and ensure the safety and security of the premises.
- The facility should consider installing a body scanner at the facility's main entrance to reduce the introduction of drugs and other contraband. This technology can detect items that metal detectors and pat-down searches may not identify, thereby enhancing overall facility security.

Inspectors Comments

We appreciate the cooperation and support provided by the facility's leadership and staff throughout this inspection. The inspection team noted a positive and professional rapport between staff and inmates, reflecting a well-maintained, respectful, and constructive facility environment on the date of inspection.

Facility Classification

Tier III – The facility has adequate conditions of confinement and programming options requiring a subsequent inspection within 36 months.

Virginia Department of Corrections Response

The VADOC appreciates the thorough inspection of Patrick Henry Correctional Unit and welcomes the opportunity to work with OSIG to identify areas of improvement. All recommendations have been addressed as set forth below:

The facility has initiated a comprehensive review of its current security camera system in collaboration with the Information Technology Unit's (ITU) Security Technology Team (STT). Upon completion of the assessment, identified deficiencies in surveillance coverage will be prioritized, and requests for additional security cameras will be requested. These enhancements are intended to improve monitoring capabilities, strengthen security operations, and promote the safety and security of staff and the inmate population.

During the inspection, it was recommended that the facility consider the installation of a body scanner at the main entrance to further reduce the introduction of drugs and other contraband into the institution. The implementation of a body scanner would enhance existing security measures by detecting items that may not be identified through current metal detector screenings and pat-down searches, thereby strengthening the overall safety and security of the facility. The facility evaluated this recommendation, and it was determined due to the current layout and physical limitations of the main entrance, installation of a body scanner at that location is not feasible at this time. The facility will continue utilizing existing search procedures and security measures to prevent the introduction of contraband and will explore alternative options should future renovations or modifications to the entrance area occur.

The VADOC appreciates OSIG's recognition of the professionalism, cooperation, and support provided by staff throughout the inspection process. VADOC remains committed to continuous improvement and will continue to implement enhancements that support safe, secure, and effective operations while upholding the standards reflected in OSIG's Tier III classification.

OSIG's appreciates the assistance provided by the Virginia Department of Corrections during this inspection. Please contact me with any questions at 804-625-3255 or corrine.louden@osig.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Corrine A. Loudon", with a stylized, flowing script.

Corrine A. Loudon
Chief Deputy Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Bonnie Krenz-Schnurman, Chief of Staff to Governor Spanberger
Jay Jones, Attorney General of Virginia (via Chief of Staff Nicky Zamostny)
Travis Hill, Chief Deputy Attorney General of Virginia
Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services
House Committee on Public Safety
Corrections Oversight Committee
Joseph Walters, Director, Virginia Department of Corrections
Jermiah Fitz, Chief Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Corrections