



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the State Inspector General

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April 28, 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 Rustburg 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: Rustburg Correctional Unit
February 18, 2026, at 9:35 a.m.

Background

Rustburg Correctional Unit is a Level I minimum-security facility located in Rustburg, Virginia. Inmates at this facility are engaged in structured work assignments. The facility has an operational capacity of 100 male inmates. At the time of inspection, 76 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, Lieutenant and Major. 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 control booths of each housing unit. 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, one complaint has been filed with OSIG, and it has since been closed. The facility reported a minimal number of grievances and noted that medical grievances primarily concerned outside appointments.

Educational and Rehabilitative Programming

The facility provides a comprehensive range of educational, vocational, and re-entry programs designed to support skill development and successful community reintegration. Educational opportunities include GED preparation, college-level courses offered on-site through a local community college, and basic computer and financial literacy classes. Vocational training programs feature hands-on instruction in HVAC, plumbing, and welding. In addition, residents may participate in work-based learning opportunities such as Virginia Department of Transportation road crews, highway trash removal, and tree-trimming assignments. In addition, some individuals are assigned to work at Buckingham Correctional Center in the administrative office and the warehouse.

The facility also offers a variety of personal growth and cognitive-behavioral programs. These include recovery-based courses, peer-led groups, money smart financial education, basic cognitive programming, and other counselor-facilitated interventions such as Reentry Planning.

Food Services

The facility contains two cafeterias, one designated for staff and the other for inmates. During the lunch period, inspectors observed the meal distribution process. Meals were served on divided compartment trays that were in satisfactory condition. The lunch meal on the day of the inspection consisted of peanut butter and jelly, lunch meat, bread, mustard, cheese and crackers, 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.

Facility staff reported that the Central Region has implemented a new 45-day kitchen supply initiative to reduce delays and extended waiting times for essential supplies. Food storage areas were observed to be orderly, with clear labeling of received and expiration dates. The freezer and thawing rooms were clean and properly maintained.

During the inspection, the drain cover near the rear trash area was observed to be unsecured and not properly positioned. Additionally, one light in the dining area was found to be non-functional. Inside the kitchen, overall cleanliness was observed, and the dining room floors were clean and well maintained.

The kitchen is currently upgrading equipment, including replacing one of the stoves with a tilt skillet, which is a large commercial appliance used for bulk cooking, searing, steaming, and braising.

Housing

The facility consists of a single housing unit divided into two pods, A Side and B Side. The dormitory-style housing is equipped with ceiling fans and industrial-sized cooling units; however, the facility does not currently have air conditioning. Facility staff reported the housing units are on the list for future air-conditioning upgrades. At the time of the inspection, the temperature reading was 72 degrees. A sign-up sheet is maintained to document the daily cleaning schedule. The facility also includes three holding cells and one cool-down cell.

Each housing pod contains televisions, telephones, JPay stations, video kiosks, and bulletin boards. Grievance mailboxes are located outside the housing units. Personal laundry is completed by inmates using washers and dryers located within the housing units.

During the inspection, the drain cover in the shower was observed to be unsecured and not in place. Additionally, one shower in the basement area was inoperable.

Basement

The basement level of the facility serves as a multi-purpose activity area that includes indoor recreation space, library, and the facility's laundry operations. The recreation area is equipped with tables, exercise equipment, and pool tables.

During the inspection, laundry services were observed in active use. A water leak was noted on the floor beneath one of the washing machines. In addition, a cold-water pipe in the hallway adjacent to the laundry room was observed to be leaking. Facility staff were promptly notified, and maintenance staff were aware of the issues. Inspectors have subsequently verified that active work orders are in place to address these items.

The library contained an assortment of books; however, two lights in the library were not functioning. Additionally, the protective covering on the wall-mounted air conditioning unit in the multi-purpose program room was loose and beginning to detach.

Medical

The Medical Unit consists of a single medical bed and serves as the primary location for triage and evaluation of inmate sick calls. One on-site medical provider is responsible for routine care, assessments, and follow-up appointments. 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 treatment.

Specialty diagnostic services, including X-ray and ultrasound, are performed by a mobile technician who visits the facility once a week on an as-needed basis. The facility operates a self-medication system for eligible inmates through the Keep on Person program, allowing qualified individuals to maintain prescribed medications in their possession in accordance with established protocols.

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. There are 57 fire extinguishers accessible to both staff and inmates throughout the facility; of those reviewed, two were not properly tagged for inspection.

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 and cellphone detection equipment. The facility maintains strict security procedures throughout the visitation

process. Video visitation stations are located within the housing units. The visitation room contains seven seating areas equipped with tables and chairs. Visitors utilize a restroom located upstairs in the administration building.

Additional Information

As validated by the Department's Research Unit on March 11, 2026:

- **Staffing:** The facility employs a total of 46 staff, with three vacancies. At the time of the inspection 13 security staff and 12 non-security personnel were present. Five staff members received disciplinary action within the past year. The average tenure of correctional staff was 12 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 six lockdowns, with the most recent scheduled full lockdown occurring on August 19, 2025. Between February 19, 2025, and February 18, 2026, there were two lockdowns. No instances of over-detention among inmates were reported at the facility.
- **Physical/Sexual Assaults/Deaths:** Between February 19, 2025, and February 18, 2026, the facility reported no serious physical assaults and no incidents involving a sexual component among staff or inmates. A review of the three-year period from February 19, 2023, through February 18, 2026, also showed no serious physical or sexual assaults. The facility recorded zero inmate deaths and zero staff deaths during both the most recent one-year review period and the corresponding three-year period.
- **Visitations:** Between February 19, 2025, and February 18, 2026, the facility scheduled 549 in-person visitations, with 88 cancellations during that period. The entire inmate population was denied in-person visitation three times in the past 12 months due to the weather. During the same timeframe, two additional in-person visits were denied, one due to suspicion of a visitor planning to bring drugs into the facility, and one due to a prior video visitation rules violation involving the visitor displaying nudity. The facility also scheduled 2,082 video visitations and recorded 83 video visitation cancellations. Video visits may be cancelled under certain circumstances, including facility lockdowns or when an inmate or visitor violates video visitation rules. Any decision to suspend visits must receive approval from the Regional Administrator.

Recommendations

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

- Repair the wall-mounted air conditioning unit in the program room, as the current protective covering is loose and falling.

- Identify, repair, or replace all burned-out light bulbs within the facility.
- Identify and repair all water leaks within the laundry room area. This should include addressing the leak beneath the washing machine and any leaking pipes in the adjoining hallway.
- Inspect, secure, and properly align all drain covers in the identified areas, including the kitchen, shower drains, and drains within the basement area.
- Repair the inoperable basement shower to ensure all shower facilities remain functional and available for use.
- Ensure routine inspection and proper documentation of all fire extinguishers to maintain operational readiness and compliance with safety standards.
- Ensure wet floor signage is consistently used and any standing water is promptly mopped to maintain compliance with existing safety requirements.

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.

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 Rustburg Correctional Unit and welcomes the opportunity to work with OSIG to identify areas of improvement. All recommendations have been addressed as set forth below:

Several recommendations outlined in the report have already been addressed.

Repaired the air conditioning unit cover and ensured it was properly installed.

Identified and addressed all burned-out lightbulbs in the library and dining hall areas. Will ensure that staff submit work orders to prevent future occurrences.

Identified and repaired all water leaks within the laundry area, including the leak beneath the washing machine and any leaking pipes in the adjoining hallway. Installed new insulation around the pipe in the laundry hallway to prevent condensation from dripping onto the floor.

During the inspection, it was noted that drain covers located in the kitchen, shower, and basement areas were found to be improperly secured. Staff will implement routine inspections to

ensure all drain covers are properly secured at all times.

It was noted that one shower head in the basement area shower was inoperable. Staff repaired the shower head to ensure all shower facilities remain functional and available for use.

In response to fire safety recommendations, the facility is reinforcing adherence to VADOC Operating Procedure 303.2, Fire Safety and Response Plans to ensure routine audits of all fire extinguishers are conducted. The two fire extinguishers that were not inspected and signed have been updated and documented. Ongoing compliance will be monitored through monthly inspections of all fire extinguishers throughout the facility.

Moving forward, staff will consistently utilize wet floor signage during any wet conditions and promptly address and mop all wet areas to maintain a safe environment and prevent potential hazards.

The VADOC appreciates OSIG's recognition of the cooperation and support demonstrated by leadership and staff during the inspection. VADOC remains committed to continuous improvement and will continue implementing enhancements to uphold 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,



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