



MCIJ Closure FAQ Sheet

Overview: *On September 29, 2025, Governor Wes Moore announced plans to close the Maryland Correctional Institution at Jessup, known as MCI-J, located in Anne Arundel County. The decision to close the facility by June 30, 2026, will enable roughly \$21 million per year in operational cost savings for Maryland taxpayers, in addition to helping the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services expand access to programming in education, vocational training, and re-entry services for incarcerated individuals.*

1. Why is MCI-J closing?

- MCI-J has faced escalating plant infrastructure issues in addition to the continued degradation of the facility's foundation due to its location and ongoing water penetration.
- Modernizing MCI-J would require substantial capital investment in the hundreds of millions of dollars without a true long-term solution for repairing its foundation. Closing the facility aligns with the Governor's Modernization Plan and will retire a prison that is well past its functional lifespan.

2. When will the facility close?

- The Department will work closely with the Maryland General Assembly, and other stakeholders to receive input and will develop a shutdown timeline that is targeted in the first quarter of fiscal year 2027.
- The closure process involves coordinating stakeholder communication, policy updates, and logistical planning to transfer the MCI-J incarcerated population and correctional staff to other facilities. This closure process includes cost analysis, staff reassignment coordination with the Department's union partners, and ultimately repurposing or dismantling the facility based on recommendations.
- The closure process will be completed in strict accordance with current Maryland law and input from the public.

3. What happens to the staff currently working at MCI-J?



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- All staff will be transferred to other institutions within the Jessup region, specifically MCI-W, DRCF, and JCI. This allows for the easiest transition for MCI-J staff with the three facilities within a 1 mile radius. The Department was cognizant to ensure staff commutes were not disrupted.
- No employees will lose their jobs as a result of this closure.
- Officers will have the option to transfer to the Eastern or Western regions if they wish.

4. Will this help with staffing issues?

- Transferring staff from MCI-J will allow the Department to fully staff MCI-W and DRCF and provide a full contingent of Sergeants to JCI.
- This move will also reduce mandatory overtime and strengthen security and programming at the other Jessup facilities.

5. How will this affect incarcerated individuals?

The Department will transfer all incarcerated individuals from MCI-J based on a priority schedule that ensures safe, appropriate placement:

1. Aging lifers – priority for JCI (for more hands-on medical care)
2. Hearing-impaired individuals – transfer to MCI-H with ADA equipment
3. Canine Partners for Life participants – to RCI
4. Goucher College program participants – to Patuxent or per capacity
5. Remaining work-program participants – transferred in the final phase

All moves will comply with classification, medical, and program needs.

6. How many incarcerated individuals are affected?



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- MCI-J currently houses more than 700 men.

7. How much money will the closure save?

- The Department projects approximately \$21 million in annual operating savings, primarily from reduced overtime, utilities, and maintenance costs.
- Closing MCI-J also avoids \$200 million in future capital costs that would have been required to repair and modernize the facility.

8. How will this affect overtime and staffing costs?

- By reallocating MCI-J staff to neighboring facilities, the Department projects an overall overtime savings of \$19.2 million per year in the Jessup region.
- This is based on reduced mandatory overtime and greater use of voluntary overtime opportunities.

9. Will programs be disrupted?

- Program transitions are being coordinated in advance to avoid any potential disruptions.
- DPSCS is working directly with partner organizations such as Goucher College and Canine Partners for Life to continue programming at other institutions.

10. What is the plan for the facility after closure?

- The facility will be shuttered and winterized at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. If needed in the future, reopening after a 3-year shutdown would cost between \$5 million and \$8 million.
- Long-term, the 10-Year Master Facilities Plan calls for demolition by 2036 at an estimated cost of \$31 million.

11. Will this impact local correctional facilities?

- No, there is no plan to transfer incarcerated individuals to local correctional facilities. They will be transferred to existing state facilities.



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12. What happens next?

Before closing MCI-J, the Department will:

- Notify internal and external stakeholders.
- Stop new assignments of incarcerated individuals to MCI-J.
- Identify space for transfers.
- Finalize timelines and checklists for staff and population moves.
- Conduct public hearings as required by law.

13. Who are the key stakeholders involved?

- Internal stakeholders include DOC and MCI-J staff, the Division of Parole and Probation, the Maryland Parole Commission, and Correctional Education.
- External stakeholders include the Maryland General Assembly, AFSCME Council 3, AFT Healthcare Maryland, and the Maryland Professional Employees Council.

14. How does this closure fit within the Department's broader goals?

- Closing MCI-J supports the Department's commitment to modernization, safety, and rehabilitation.
- It will improve staff working conditions, expand access to education and re-entry programs, and make better use of taxpayer dollars.

15. What's Next In the Process?

- A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 26, 2026, at 10 AM, at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions located at 6852 4th St, Sykesville, MD 21784.