

Q: What is the status of resolving the lock issues at Lewis Complex Close Custody Units?

A: Prior to approval of the correct lock replacement project, it was determined the present locking system cannot be reliably repaired and must instead be replaced to permanently address this issue. As a temporary solution, padlocks were placed on the doors until the replacement is complete.

Q: Can the cell doors be reliably secured?

A: Yes. The doors can be reliably secured using the padlocks provided as a temporary solution until the replacement project is complete. These types of padlocks have proven reliable over decades of use by the Department, and are currently used in complexes throughout the state, including to secure pedestrian gates.

Q: Are there procedures for the use of padlocks which prioritize safety?

A: Yes. Procedures require that padlocks must be locked on the cell door hasp to secure the door. Upon removal, the lock must be placed in a secure control room.

Q: Is there any value in repairing these locks.

A: No, the locks can clearly not be repaired. At this point the locks can only be serviced by aligning the door hasps. There is no possibility of reliably or sustainably repairing the locks and continued efforts provide zero return on investment and waste staff resources.

Q: What does the project include and how long will it take?

A: The project includes replacing the locking systems at Lewis - Morey unit, Lewis - Buckley unit and Lewis - Rast close custody unit. The next phase is Lewis – Stiner/ Morey/Barchey detention units. The final phase is Yuma – Dakota unit and detention unit. The project is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2021.