

NYC federal jail where Jeffrey Epstein killed himself to close

By **NOAH GOLDBERG** and **STEPHEN REX BROWN**
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The dysfunctional federal jail where Jeffrey Epstein hanged himself in 2019 will be closed “at least temporarily,” the Justice Department said Thursday.

The Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan could be shut down as soon as the coming month, sources say.

“In an effort to address the issues at MCC NY as quickly and efficiently as possible, the Department has decided to close the MCC, at least temporarily, until those issues have been resolved. Planning for the deactivation is under way, and we will have more updates as that process continues,” a DOJ spokeswoman said in a statement.

Sources were skeptical the jail would ever resume operations resembling previous years, when it held 700 or more inmates.



The Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York. (Mary Altaffer/AP)

The jail currently holds only 263 inmates, according to Bureau of Prisons data.

[\[More New York\] Creep exposes himself to stranger on Manhattan subway, breaks her cellphone when she snaps pics »](#)

“The place is just f---ing falling apart,” one jail’s insider said. “Literally, for years now, there’s water leakages — saturation of the concrete infrastructure of some of those those floors going on for years. That’s a big reason for having to do this, the deterioration of the structure.”

The shutdown presents major logistical challenges for Manhattan Federal Court, which is connected to the jail. District Executive Ed Friedland, who is in charge of the court’s operations, said he had not been notified of the plan.



Metropolitan Correctional Center on Park Row in Manhattan. (Luiz C. Ribeiro / for New York D/New York Daily News)

Some of the most high-profile federal inmates in the country have been held at the jail, including [drug kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman](#) and

Sayfullo Saipov, an accused terrorist awaiting trial for the 2017 [Hudson River bike path truck attack](#).

[\[More New York\] Brooklyn driver clinging to life after blowing light, T-boning tractor-trailer filled with empty chicken coops »](#)

One source said more than 100 inmates have been moved from MCC to Brooklyn's federal jail, the Metropolitan Detention Center in Sunset Park, in the last year.

"The bulk of the people will go to the MDC and the marshals are looking for other places to put people," one source said, adding that MCC is the only local federal jail with a methadone clinic for inmates hooked on opioids.



Photos released by a medical examiner reveal billionaire pedophile Jeffrey Epstein's jail cell where he died.

One source said some staffers had received "reduction in force" letters notifying them they'd lost their jobs.

[\[More New York\] Man, 26, gunned down during Bronx street fight »](#)

But Tyrone Covington, the union rep for correctional officers at MCC, said none of the rank and file had received such notices.

"The MCC has been a longstanding disgrace. It's cramped, dark and unsanitary. The building is falling apart. Chronic shortages of medical staff mean that people suffer for long periods of time when they have urgent medical issues," said David Patton, attorney-in-chief at the Federal Defenders of New York.



Nov. 20, 2019 Daily News front page: Caught With Their Guards Down! (New York Daily News)

The lockup has been plagued by headline-grabbing dysfunction since Epstein killed himself in his cell while awaiting trial for sex trafficking of minors. Two correctional officers admitted to neglecting their duties the night of the sex offender's death as part of a non-prosecution agreement.

The jail also went into a [week-long lockdown](#) after someone snuck a gun into the building in February 2020. No one has been charged for the

security breach. Alarming accounts soon emerged about coronavirus ravaging inmate housing areas.

[\[More New York\] Man fatally shot in chest outside Bronx apartment building »](#)

One officer in the building was [sentenced to three years](#) in prison last year for preying on at least seven female inmates starting in 2012.

Yet another was arrested after catching a visitor trying to sneak contraband into the jail — and [demanded sex from her](#) instead of “getting her in trouble.”



Metropolitan Detention Center in Sunset Park. (Theodore Parisienne/for New York Daily News)

A federal judge even said in April that the MCC lurches “[from crisis to crisis](#)” with no accountability and that both federal jails in the city are run by “morons.”

Inmates have [described the jail](#) as a fetid, bug and mice-infested hellhole where feces leaks out of busted pipes into cells that get no heat. A [doctor who toured the jail in 2020](#) described a “severe pest” problem and said the jail had a “basic disregard for sanitation and infection control.”