



**Commission of
Correction**

**Final Report of the
New York State Commission of Correction:**

In the Matter of the Death of

**Richard McAllaster (22B1028),
an incarcerated individual of the
Groveland Correctional Facility**

September 24, 2025

**To: Honorable Daniel F. Martuscello, III
Commissioner
NYS Department of Corrections
And Community Supervision
The Harriman State Campus
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226**

Allen Riley
Chairman

Yolanda Canty
Commissioner

Elizabeth Gaynes
Commissioner

GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Medical Review Board has reported to the NYS Commission of Correction pursuant to Correction Law, section 47(1)(d), regarding the death of Richard McAllaster, who died on September 4, 2022, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Groveland Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Richard McAllaster was a 41-year-old male who died on 9/4/22 due to COVID pneumonia while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) at Groveland Correctional Facility (CF).

2. On 3/18/22, McAllaster was admitted into NYS DOCCS at Elmira CF Reception [REDACTED]. McAllaster was sentenced to one-to-three years for a Sex Offender Registration Violation. On 4/7/22, McAllaster was transferred from Elmira CF Reception to Groveland CF for program purposes. This is where McAllaster remained until the terminal event.

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]

15. [REDACTED]

16. [REDACTED]

17. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Medical Review Board opines that during the COVID pandemic, index of suspicion for acute respiratory illness should have been high with attending medical staff.

18.

[REDACTED]

19.

[REDACTED]

20.

[REDACTED]

21.

[REDACTED]

22.

[REDACTED]

23.

[REDACTED]

24.

[REDACTED]

25. [REDACTED]

26. [REDACTED]

27. [REDACTED]

28. [REDACTED]

The Medical Review Board finds that RN [REDACTED] should have notified the facility provider to McAllaster's oxygen saturation level of 93% on room air, and that McAllaster should have received supplemental oxygen at this time.

29. [REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]

The Medical Review Board finds that RN [REDACTED] did not complete a lung assessment on McAllaster, obtain a temperature on McAllaster, nor provide him with supplemental oxygen for an oxygen saturation of 85-to-90% on room air.

31. [REDACTED] Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was activated.

32. On 9/2/22 at 11:25 a.m., Mount Morris Ambulance arrived at the facility and assumed the care of McAllaster. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

33.

[REDACTED]

34.

[REDACTED]

35.

[REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES:

1. The Deputy Commissioner shall convene a comprehensive quality assurance review on the health care provided to McAllaster at the Groveland CF with a focus on:

-Why, on 8/31/22 at 7:10 p.m., RN [REDACTED] failed to contact a facility provider for further instructions for McAllaster who had complaints of having green-black mucous, mid-sternal chest pain that worsened with coughing, a temperature of 93 degrees, and a blood pressure of 206/66.

-Why, on 9/2/22 at 10:30 a.m., RN [REDACTED] did not complete a lung assessment on McAllaster, obtain a temperature on McAllaster, or provide him with supplemental oxygen for an oxygen saturation of 85-to-90% on room air.

A report of the findings and any corrective actions shall be forwarded to the Medical Review Board upon completion.

In a response dated 8/6/25 to the Commission's preliminary report, the Deputy Commissioner indicated that the requested reviews were completed with corrective training and best practices review completed with staff.

WITNESS, HONORABLE YOLANDA CANTY, Commissioner, NYS Commission of Correction, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan Street, 12th Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this 24th day of September 2025.



Yolanda Canty
Commissioner
Commission of Correction

YC:BB :vc
2022-M-0095
September 24, 2025

cc: Dr. Carol Moores, Deputy Commissioner Chief Medical Officer
James Donahue, Associate Commissioner of Mental Health
Superintendent Amy Cook, Groveland CF