

SWORN STATEMENT NO.18

FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY JAIL

We do not have cell phone footage of abuses inside prisons and jails. I am reading the following sworn testimony from a person held in the Prince George's County Jail to lift this veil of secrecy and hold our justice system accountable. This testimony was taken in April 2020.

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury and upon personal knowledge that the contents of the foregoing paper are true:

I have been detained at the Prince George's County Jail since January, 2020.

I am diabetic.

The only times that I have been told to stay at least 6 feet away from people were when I was in the medical unit for my regular diabetes check-ups.

I have noticed a number of other detainees who have experienced symptoms of the virus on the unit, including high temperatures, coughing, and shortness of breath.

The jail's medical unit does not have any coronavirus tests and are not performing any tests – they are simply taking people's temperatures and checking them for symptoms of COVID-19. If detainees only display symptoms without a high temperature, they remain on the unit in general population.

We were issued only one mask each, and had to re-use the same mask each day. It is not possible to clean or wash these masks. They are flimsy, and I feel like a t-shirt tied around my nose and mouth would be more effective as a safety measure.

I have no access to hot water to wash my hands.

It is almost impossible to have meaningful social distancing on my unit.

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I continue to have a cellmate living directly in close quarters with me for 23 hours of the day.

Phone use (the only way to contact the outside world, including my attorney) occurs with insufficient social distancing 6 phones are regularly in use at the same time, which still leaves only about 2-3 feet of distance between each person.

The phones are not disinfected between uses.

Some people are very fearful; some think it's all a joke. But as a diabetic, I have to take this very seriously. I wash my hands as often as I can, but I have no access to hot or warm water.