

SWORN STATEMENT NO.38

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.

I am 18 years old. I contracted the coronavirus while detained at the jail in April. First my cellmate got sick, and then three days later I was feeling sick.

I told the corrections officer.. She asked me if I had allergies. I told her I didn't have allergies. The corrections officer said it was probably allergies.

I went to the medical unit a few days later and I spent three days in an isolation cell. They did not clean the cell before I went in. [It] had pee and feces in it, and it smelled bad. It was disgusting. I begged for toilet paper for two days but I did not get any.

The nurses in the medical unit are rude and pretend they don't hear us. One time one said we don't want to catch the virus because we have families. I said we have families too.

On the third day, I was moved to a larger cell. The unit was filthy and you could see the mold. When the sun shone in the cell you could see the mold in the air. I think the mold hurt people's lungs before the coronavirus.

There were no hygiene products, no showers, and people had to bathe in the sink with a towel. They said we couldn't have showers because they didn't want us to spread the virus. It was days before we received new clothes.

I was not able to get commissary there so I was very hungry.

On April 20 I was moved to the housing unit. The corrections officers told me not to tell anyone that I had coronavirus. When I got a cellmate the corrections officers did not tell him I had tested positive for coronavirus. I had to tell him myself. I had to tell three different cellmates that I had the coronavirus.

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There is no air conditioning in the unit, and it felt like it was 90 degrees. I take off the mattress and sleep on my sheets so I can feel the cool metal of the bed. It is so hot it feels like my heart is being stuck with needles. I have been feeling heart pain for a week. But I don't want to go to isolation so I didn't tell anyone.

When coronavirus happened it was like they started treating us worse. I know we are inmates, but we're still human.