

SWORN STATEMENT NO.39

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.

Three weeks ago, I lost my ability to smell and taste completely. I was sweating a lot. I didn't know what was going on. I also had shortness of breath, and I couldn't fully breathe. I was reading the paper, and saw that those were symptoms of the Coronavirus. I went to the medical unit and told them about my symptoms. But they told me as long as I was strong enough to get up and walk around, I didn't have the Coronavirus. So they then sent me back to the housing unit. They didn't send me back with a mask or any sort of protective equipment.

I continued to have symptoms and complain about them. But they told me that because I didn't have a fever, I couldn't have Coronavirus.

I'm one of the people who passes all of the food trays out every day, three times per day. I also come out to clean every day, twice per day. So I come into contact with everybody. I didn't have access to any protective equipment except a hair net and a beard net.

There was one night that I was so sick that I couldn't even get up. I went back to work the next day. The nurse never did anything to help me. She didn't even give me Tylenol. They also took Tylenol off of the commissary list, so we can't even order Tylenol ourselves anymore.

We're on 23-and-1 lockdown where only ten people come out of our cells at a time for one hour per day. It's impossible for me to social distance at the jail. We sleep in bunkbeds only a few feet apart from each other. It's also impossible to social distance on the phones.

They've got guys who were positive for Coronavirus who are back in the unit and still experiencing symptoms, and they're right in the mix with the rest of us.

I feel like my life is in jeopardy. And the way the nurses treat me, it's like I am not even human. It's not right.