

SWORN STATEMENT NO.42

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 currently incarcerated at the Prince George's County Jail. I am assigned to a work detail. I suffer from asthma.

In March 2020, I was working in the officer dining room. The woman who was the first confirmed case of COVID-19 at this jail also worked there. They made me clean the cart off after she touched it.

Soon after, I started feeling sick. I felt weak, had headaches, and I lost my sense of taste and smell. My whole body ached and I had trouble breathing.

I told the COs and they kept saying "you're good." Around the same time, early April, my celly started to have a dry cough. I saw that officers on my unit were coughing and not wearing masks around that time.

Over the next few days, my symptoms got worse. I couldn't eat, my body ached. I begged to go to medical, but I was ignored.

When people first started to get sick, we did not even get soap for free. You had to spend your commissary money, if you had any. After the lawsuit was filed, they started giving out small hotel-sized bars of soap. Eventually, when a doctor was coming to do an inspection of the jail, they gave out large bars of soap for free.

In late May, I started feeling awful again. The jail finally responded to my requests to go to medical. I was there in an isolation cell. I had a fever and a sore throat and no appetite. The medical isolation cell was filthy. I asked for cleaning supplies multiple times but nobody would give me any. The officers would ignore me for hours.

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I saw a guy down in medical whose eye was swollen shut from being assaulted by staff. I heard him asking for medical attention but they kept ignoring him.

They are still refusing to give me an inhaler for my Asthma. People are still doubled up in cells and can't distance from each other. It is a scary experience to be here in this jail because they say another wave is coming, and I'm scared for my health.

I feel like the jail doesn't even care about me and my medical conditions.