

# SWORN STATEMENT NO.57

## 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'm detained on a violation of probation. I am 22 years old. I have a pre-existing condition of asthma.

One guy was sent back from medical unit to my housing unit, even though he had symptoms. I interacted with him because at the time I didn't know what was going on, and I didn't know I needed to distance myself.

About a week after, my symptoms began. I had chest pains, shortness of breath, runny nose, and my senses were dulled. I could feel and taste the sickness in my body. I was really worried because I am asthmatic.

I would tell the nurse about my symptoms and say "I'm an asthmatic, I need my inhaler, I need albuterol." And the nurse would just tell me to fill out a sick call request. I filled out three sick call requests. I never got a response. The guy who I suspect gave me COVID-19 is now back, and he's complaining about chest pains too, but he hasn't gotten any medical attention.

My housing unit has been on 23-and-1 lockdown for approximately three weeks. The only thing we can read is the newspaper.

Because we're only out for an hour at a time, the phones are usually in use, so there's no way for us to do social distancing. You're basically elbow-to-elbow. It's also impossible for me to socially distance from my cellmate.

No grievance forms are available. On multiple occasions, I have seen inmates be punished for insisting that they be given a grievance form. The COs will order you back into your cell, and then ignore you. And if you refuse to go back in your cell, they'll call a signal on you and have you sent to the hole.

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It feels like the jail staff have just given up. The energy now is, "Forget it. It's already out. So just let the virus do what it's going to do."

This is the most discouraging situation I've ever been in. The jail is not taking this seriously. They're not taking my health seriously, or the health of other inmates.

It seems like every step the jail has taken has just been to save themselves from any wrongdoing, from being punished or held accountable down the road.