

SWORN STATEMENT NO.17

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 went to sick call. They gave me headache medicine and Claritin and sent me back to the unit. I asked to be tested for the virus, but they said they don't have any tests. Last night I went to sick call again. I had a fever and a headache. They told me that my fever wasn't high enough, and that they would only test me if it got higher. They told me to drink water and sent me back to the unit.

My cellmate has been coughing and sneezing. They have us locked in 23 hours a day with 1 hour of recreation time. There is no way for my cellmate and me to distance ourselves from each other.

I and other inmates have been asking for facemasks for weeks. We finally got them for the first time three days ago.

Before that, some of us, including me, would put our shirts over our mouths to protect ourselves. The guards told us to stop.

People on the unit have gone to sick call and been sent back, and then they go again and again, and we hear later on that they had the coronavirus.

A lot of people in the unit who are coughing and sneezing have said they are trying to suppress it because they don't want to go to the medical unit because of the way people there are being treated.

While I am speaking on the phone, I can reach out and touch the person closest to me. I feel sure I am going to get the virus in here.

I feel like I'm going to get sick and there's nothing I can do about it.