

SWORN STATEMENT NO.23

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 am currently incarcerated at the Prince George's County Jail.

I first began to experience symptoms of Covid-19 on March 30th, when I started to not be able to smell or taste. At that time, I was detained with a cellmate. [He] has also not been able to taste or smell. I sought medical attention on March 30th. I would hit the call button and correctional officers would ignore me when I attempted to notify them of my symptoms. I then started to yell for a CO to hear me, and the guards continued to ignore me. I do not think [they] care about us.

It took eleven days for me to finally receive medical care, only after another correctional officer finally allowed me to. When I did talk to a nurse, they told me that I will not receive a Covid-19 test, because I did not have a fever. They prescribed 10mg of Claritin. On Unit 9, there [have] been three confirmed cases of Covid-19.

The only instructions that I received from correctional officers regarding Covid-19 prevention is to stay six feet away from others. I am unable to since I have a cellmate. I was also given a mask on April 6, 2020. When I use the phone, I am less than six feet away from another person who is on the phone. There are twelve phones in operation, but only seven phones can be used, since every other phone is supposed to be used to maintain distancing. To my knowledge, detail only cleans the phones once a day.

When people, including myself, ask to file grievances about the conditions of the jail, we are told by correctional officers that we cannot have the grievance forms and sometimes to "shut up."