SWORN STATEMENT NO. 24
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 don't like how the jail is handling the outbreak. Guards take our temperature twice a day. They come to the cell, tell us to put our head in the slot, measure the temperature and check off our name. I don't think they record the temperature or anything, just that it was okay. They do not clean the temperature reader between uses. They do not change their gloves between inmates.

I don't think it’s clean enough in here, and we are not getting enough cleaning supplies. I try to keep my cell clean, but they don’t let us use bleach. I ask for spray-nine and the guards say no. I use a rag and my hands. When I find a way to sneak some spray-nine, I use that too.

They have given us flimsy paper masks. The guards tell us not to lose our masks because we can’t get a replacement. Not all inmates wear their masks; neither do the guards. I can see the guard right now and he isn’t wearing his. The guards’ masks are thicker than ours. They say that we are practicing social distancing, but it does not seem that way to me. People are within six feet of each other all the time.

It costs $4 to go to sick call. They take people with money in their account first, so if you don’t have money it can take a long time, and they debit your account so that it goes negative. I have been trying to file a grievance, about the conditions in here and the way that a CO has treated me, for the last two days and still have not been given a form. The guards keep telling me I have to wait until next shift.

I feel like we can’t get any information, and like we can't trust anything the guards tell us. I have asthma. Last Thursday I told the guard my chest was hurting and they took me to the medical unit. They hooked me to a machine to help get my breathing to normal, then sent me back. I have been feeling pains, coughing and [have] less ability to taste and smell. I am very afraid of getting the virus. I am even more afraid because of my asthma, I think it could be very serious for me.

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