

SWORN STATEMENT NO.3

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 thirty-four years old. I am currently detained in the Prince George's County Jail. The jail takes our temperatures twice per day. You put your head in the slot of the cell, like a dog, and they scan our foreheads. The jail sometimes uses gloves when they take our temperature, but they do not clean the scanner between uses. I think they write our temperatures down on a clipboard.

There are currently hungry inmates eating out of trash cans because we are being provided very little food or food that is cold and inedible. I feel like an animal.

After I had been here for over two weeks, the jail finally gave me a mask. It's like a nurse's mask; it feels thin. The jail directed us to put it on and to not come to the desk without it. The guards sometimes tell us to wear it when we come out of our cell. The jail told me that my mask won't be replaced, even if it gets lost, torn, or dirtied. The guards and the staff have different masks; they have masks that are like a painter's mask. I am quite sure the staffs' masks work better.

I am extremely scared of contracting the virus. I don't feel the jail staff has been taking COVID seriously because they don't tell the inmates anything, they don't wipe surfaces down, and they don't provide us anything aside from the mask. You have to keep asking and pressing buttons in your cell to get answers from the correctional officers. When you run out of soap, the jail might give you a small bar or might not give you anything. I know a couple of people who do not have any soap and are using only water to try and wash themselves. I have not seen anyone clean or sanitize any surfaces in my housing unit.

I feel that there is nothing being done for us and that we are in a terrible situation.