

SWORN STATEMENT NO.32

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 am currently incarcerated in the Prince George's County Jail. I am 39 years old. I have severe asthma.

When I first came to the jail, there were about fourteen people in processing, but they didn't tell us to spread out and socially distance. Both the inmates and the COs were taking their masks off.

I told the nurse that I had asthma and that I needed medication. I was wheezing and couldn't breathe. It took two days before they finally brought me down. The nurse didn't believe me. I was begging her, I could barely breathe, and I was wheezing so bad. She told the CO to come get me and put me in the holding cell and bring her someone else.

I had to wait two more days before a different nurse gave me my inhaler. I'm not the only one who has had trouble getting urgent medical attention. Another guy kept pushing his buzzer and yelling, "help, help!" But the COs just ignored him. Eventually, one of the other inmates walked over and the guy was lying on the ground unconscious.

We found out later that this guy tested positive for COVID-19. My own cellmate was sweating, breaking out in hives, and spitting up blood. They ignored him.

One of the detail workers also caught Coronavirus. He cleaned the unit and passed out our food trays.

The sanitation is poor. They only have Spray Nine to clean. Instead of buying more, they're cutting it with water. I see guys coughing on their hands and touching the railings. The COs touch our food trays without gloves. They walk around without any face mask. The jail doesn't take this pandemic seriously, they don't seem to care about us.

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We're locked down for twenty-three hours or more per day in our hot cells. I get one hour to shower, use the phone, and clean my cell. There's no social distancing on the phones.

Yesterday, we were telling the COs about the unsanitary conditions. One of them said he didn't care. He said that he already had Coronavirus, so he's not worried about catching it again.