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.

Around the end of March or beginning of April, I developed a cough. I have had asthma ever since I was little, and I told the jail about it when I came here. Outside of the jail, I use an inhaler, but here, they won’t give it to me. The cough got more and more intense. Eventually my throat hurt very badly and I had shortness of breath. I started coughing up thick mucus, kind of like pieces of chewing gum.

No one from medical saw me for about three days. Once I met with the doctor, they put me in an isolation cell in the medical unit.

The isolation cell was horrific. There was mucus, urine, feces, and blood on the floors and on the walls. There’s a camera in there, and there was even blood, feces, and urine on that. I couldn’t clean, and the smell made me feel worse. It wasn’t fit for dogs to live in there. I didn’t have any gloves.

While I was there, I felt like I had fever in my bones. I had a painful cough and I couldn’t breathe. I had mucus coming up that was black, green, and yellow. They told me I had tested positive for COVID-19.

I did not receive any medical treatment while I was in isolation. The only time I ever saw any person was when they came to give me medication a couple of times a day or when they came to give me food. When they brought me food, they would open the door a crack and warn me not to move before they would slide the food in the cell. Overall, I think I was in the medical unit for about twenty-two days.