

SWORN STATEMENT NO.21

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, [Declarant #21], solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury and upon personal knowledge that the contents of the foregoing paper are true:

I am currently incarcerated at the in Prince George's County Jail. There seems to be a flu or sickness spreading around the unit, for over three weeks now.

There are 82 people in my unit. Many are sick or have been sick, four have left the unit and not returned. Two of the regular officers for the evening shift have not been seen for weeks.

Officers in the unit aren't telling us information, detainees are not provided masks or gloves, and there is fear to disclose symptoms - you might be taken to the Medical Unit, where we know there are confirmed cases of Covid-19. Some have asked for treatment [or] medical exams and have been told that what they have is not serious, or it's a cold. When people return from medical, their masks are taken off of them.

My cell mate got sick first, [and] was taken to medical. They told him he just had allergies, and then they put him back in a shared cell with me. It didn't seem like allergies. Then I got sick.

My symptoms included coughing, sneezing, fever, chills, diarrhea, fatigue and decreased ability to taste or smell. The symptoms fluctuate, they can get worse and then get better. I feel like I don't know when I am really better.

When I got sick, I didn't want anyone else to get sick, so I took two days off work. I am on cleaning detail, and my duties include cleaning up the unit and distributing food. I returned to work and spent two days just handling trash, then went back to distributing food – I took a break from handling food for four days total.

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I am trying to social distance, and there is usually enough space in the unit, except the phones. As I talk to my attorney now I could reach out and touch two other people.

Things have gotten a bit better this week, since we have finally gotten masks and gloves. Personal soap is still part of commissary, but we are trying to help each other out where we can.

However, I think this is too late. I feel like everyone in the unit is catching it. We aren't given any details about who has tested positive, and it seems like almost everyone is sick.