

SWORN STATEMENT NO.48

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.

When I first arrived at the jail in March, I do not recall receiving any screening for Covid-19 symptoms. I do not recall my temperature being taken. I do not recall anyone asking me whether I had flu-like symptoms.

I do not recall anyone asking me questions or telling me anything at all about Covid-19. About two weeks after I got to the jail, I started to feel sick. A few days later, I could barely breathe and barely walk. Once, I fell getting down from the top bunk because I was not strong enough.

I told the COs about my symptoms every day for two straight weeks. I was put in an isolation cell by myself. It was dirty with urine, feces and blood on the walls and the floor. In the isolation cell, I had to sleep on a concrete slab that had urine under it. I was scared that I would get even more sick because the cell had not been cleaned, and it could have been infected before me. I requested a cleaning before I laid down on the concrete slab, but they ignored me. I was unable to call my family for several days after I got to medical isolation. It was scary for me, and I know they were worried about me.

I learned on April 10th that I had tested positive for Covid-19, and I was moved into a cell with nine other people who had tested positive for Covid-19. The staff would not come into the cell to take out the trash, so our trash would sit for days in the cell. The trash was full of vomit. We were sitting in the same dirty uniforms and underwear for days. Most of us had fevers at the time. We had to drink water out of the same sink we bathed in, because it was the only water we had.

I am not aware of any safety inspector coming around to the unit and checking conditions. I have not been able to speak to any such person. I have not been able to file a grievance, because grievances are not made available. Any time I have asked for a grievance, I have been told that I cannot have one.