

Affidavit of Aish Ayyash

My name is Aish Ayyash. I was detainee in the Cook County Jail for 163 days until I was released on March 26, 2020.

1. Until recently, I resided in Division 9, Tier 1B of the Cook County Jail. There were around 40 to 45 people incarcerated on my tier.
2. I shared a cell with another individual. I slept on the bottom bunk. Our beds were less than 3 feet apart. It was impossible to maintain a 6-foot distance between us because our cell was not big enough to allow it. We shared a toilet in the cell.
3. There were 3 toilets in the dayroom shared by the 40 to 45 people housed in the tier. The toilets were regularly broken. When I left, everyone was sharing 1 working communal toilet.
4. There was only 1 functioning sink.
5. There was 1 shower area shared by everyone. It had 6 shower heads. When I left, only 4 showerheads were working. The other 2 were broken.
6. There were 6 tables in the dining hall, where 8 people sat close together at each table. It was impossible to socially distance ourselves while eating.
7. I was not given soap.
8. I had to purchase soap at commissary with my own funds. It was crushed by the officers before purchase.
9. Officers were wearing gloves, but very few had masks. One officer told me that he only had a mask because he bought it himself.
10. I was never provided masks, gloves, or any personal protective equipment at any point.
11. While I was there, one person tested positive for COVID-19. He appeared sick for multiple days before he saw a doctor. After he tested positive, he was taken from the division, his belongings were placed in a garbage bag, and the officers quickly wiped down his cell. Staff did not clean any of the common areas. His roommate was also removed from the tier, but I did not see or hear about anyone else getting tested after he left.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

April 3, 2020
Chicago, Illinois

s/ Aish Ayyash
Aish Ayyash