

All during the Covid pandemic I was working for Montgomery County Police as a patrol officer on a mid-night shift performing all functions of a patrol officer. I was responding to calls for service, traffic stops, going to court, checking business, talking to business owners and training. When calls needed, I had to go to the hospital and station when brought higher risk with the amounts of people at these locations. Just days prior to coming down sick I was Inservice training with officers from across the county, fire rescue from across the county and civilians. While out in the public we were doing what we could to be safe following all CDC, county, state, and federal mandates. While the masking was lifted and reinstated several times, I personally was still wearing a face covering while indoors trying to reduce my risk of exposure. At home we were doing all we could to be safe. We got out groceries delivered and disinfected them when they arrived. The Kids were doing online school and were only went out for necessary things and while out in public were once again following local, state and federal guidelines.

In Aug 2021 I came down with covid and ended up in Fredrick Hospital. All I remember is getting into the ambulance at home then waking up in the hospital with a tube in my throat could barely move and a family member by my bed side. After three hospitals and considerable time, learning to walk again and regaining some strength I was home after 79 days. The only reason I was released as early as I was because I worked hard to be able to at least stand on my own and finished my physical rehab at home. Since then, I have been to numerous doctors for the aftereffects of covid. With having no previous health issues now I'm dealing with memory issues, tinnitus and loss of hearing, loss of smell, neuropathy in both of my hands and feet, nerve pain in right elbow which causes pain and loss of control of my right hand, weak lung function, over all loss of strength and an enlarged aorta from my heart. I have been out of work since going to the hospital, Luckily I had saved up my sick leave over the last 20 years on the job and that has afforded me the ability to be on live while trying to figure out what's next and focusing on getting back to how I was before.

My future is unsure at this point. I am in the appeal process with the workers comp for my case because the burden of proof is on the injured to prove that you came down with Covid on the job. After all contact tracing the only way we can come up with is that I did get it on the job, but since we can't point to known person whom I dealt with the works comp will not cover me. The toll on my family has been untold.