

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT

#COVIDINTHEPSYCHWARD

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A VOLUNTARY STAY AT A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY CAN BECOME INVOLUNTARY IF A PHYSICIAN OR LAWYER SEES FIT. DURING COVID THIS HAS MEANT PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO STALE AIR, UNMASKED, UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS AND LITTLE TO NO SOCIAL DISTANCING IN COMMON AREAS AND SHARED WARD ROOMS.

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**PEOPLE ENTERING INPATIENT SETTINGS
OFTEN HAVE UNDERLYING ILLNESSES,
SKEW OLDER THAN PEOPLE IN PRISON AND
HAVE FEWER RESTRICTIONS, WHICH POSES
PARTICULAR CHALLENGES FOR PATIENTS
AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.**

- ETHAN GERINGER SAMUTH

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**CONTACT WITH PEOPLE INSIDE
INSTITUTIONS CAN BE DIFFICULT.
IT'S COMMON FOR WARDS TO
ONLY HAVE ONE OR TWO PHONES
SHARED AMONG DOZENS OF
PATIENTS, CONGREGATING
ENDLESSLY (A POTENTIAL SOURCE
OF COVID SPREAD DURING THE PEAK) TO CONTACT
THE OUTSIDE. - ETHAN GERINGER SAMUTH**

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**[COVID] TORE THROUGH WARDS,
KILLING AT LEAST 30 PATIENTS
AND SEVEN STAFF BY THE END OF
APRIL; BY FEBRUARY 2021, 58
PATIENTS IN STATE PSYCHIATRIC
INSTITUTIONS (49 CONFIRMED, 9
SUSPECTED) HAD DIED.**

- ETHAN GERINGER SAMETHOTHAM

GOTHAM GAZETTE MAY 2021

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“I SPENT 4 DAYS IN A PSYCH WARD BEFORE THE ENTIRE WING TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID. THERE WAS ZERO MASKING TAKING PLACE EVEN THOUGH I WAS ADMITTED IN WINTER 2021. THERE WERE NO SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE FOR PATIENTS ALTHOUGH STAFF ALWAYS WORE MASKS. AFTER COVID SPREAD THROUGHOUT PATIENT ROOMS, MASKING WAS WEAPONIZED AGAINST PATIENTS AND WE WERE SUBJECTED TO INTENSE ISOLATION AND CONFINED TO OUR ROOMS DESPITE A FULL WARD AND ROOMMATES MAKING QUARANTINE IMPOSSIBLE.”

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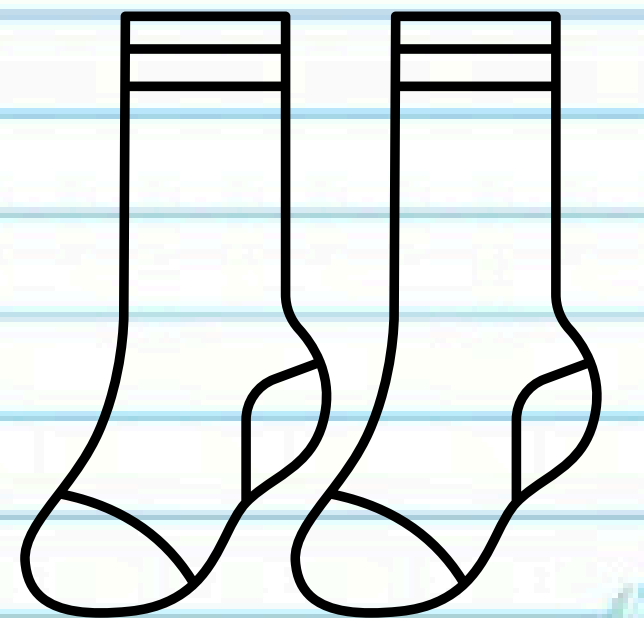
“ RATES OF DEATH AND INFECTION IN THE FACILITIES FAR OUTPACED OTHER CONGREGATE SETTINGS, LIKE PRISONS, WHERE THE VIRUS WAS KNOWN TO THRIVE. STUDIES SHOW PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO GETTING INFECTED AND HAVING WORSE OUTCOMES THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION. “

- ETHAN GERINGER SAMETH

GOTHAM GAZETTE MAY 2021

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TELL YOUR GRIPPY SOCK VACATION STORY <3



Everyone won't understand but some of us do. We can't find each other if we don't tell our stories. I Love You <3

Solidarity with those who have lost loved ones to Covid or suicide, two things society pretends don't exist.

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