

# COVID-19 VS. FBOP

Hello, my name is Devin A. Pemberton, a 42 year old Caribbean male and devout Christian with core values that are enduring. I am a certified Paralegal, public speaker, credit repair specialist, published author and poet, life and success coach, editor, and a Black Lives Matter ~~pr~~fighter against racial injustice, systemic racism, white privilege, and mass incarceration. I am passionate and relentless in the pursuit of constant never ending improvement.

As of this writing over 8 million Americans have been exposed to the novel coronavirus, and over 220,000 have died. Since January 2020, when the virus was detected in the Wuhan province of China, the virus has spread dramatically in the United States. People with underlying, pre-existing, long term, chronic health illnesses are at high risk of serious sickness and even ultimate death if they test positive for COVID-19. The virus thrives in densely populated areas. Areas where minorities are the majority and are dying at high rates from COVID-19. Densely populated ~~facilities~~ federal prisons are incubators of COVID-19. Overcrowding and unsanitary conditions have made American prisons a petri dish for infectious diseases. The American incarcerated class, (the highest in the world) are the most vulnerable to COVID-19 exposure because they are housed in a very confined space meant for

Correctional housing, and not for medical care. Epidemiologists are concerned about the reporting practices and the under representation of the infection in the BOP. In every facility, once the virus takes hold it will spread quickly and untold numbers of people will die, effectively sentencing them to the DEATH penalty, whatever their crime. Under the United States Constitution, this a clear, present, obvious, and blatant violation of the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth (cruel and unusual punishment), and Fourteenth Amendment of all inmates — federal or state. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825 (1994), "the government and its officials are not free to let the State of nature take its course!"

Federal prisons are the places with the highest rate of coronavirus infection in the world. Incarceration in the time of COVID-19 skirts the genocidal cruelty of death by disease of the Nazis, the return of Jim Crow civil rights violations, and the resurrection of American slavery. If the Bureau of Prisons cannot protect the lives of prisoners, meaning prisoners who do not have life or death sentences, they must let them go. That's the general panorama that the entire world has adopted, except for America — the incarceration capital of the world.

Federal inmates cannot be guaranteed safety with such a deadly pandemic on the verge of exploding

even more violently in prisons. The BOP has failed horribly in protecting federal prisoners from being infected. Many federal inmates have filed 18 U.S.C. Section 3582(c)(1)(A)(i) motions to seek refuge from COVID-19 on home confinement. However, only the rich are granted immunity from COVID-19 infested federal prisons like Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen, Tekashi Six-Nine, and U.S. Rep Corrine Brown. As a Paralegal, I know firsthand that it is extremely rare for poor inmates to be released. Even though U.S. Attorney General William Barr put out two memorandums advising the BOP to release at risk inmates. In fact, the high risk of contracting is so great and indiscriminatory that on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the First Lady tested positive for the Coronavirus. If the leader of the Free World is susceptible to COVID-19 exposure, what fate do federal inmates face in dirty, overcrowded, COVID-19 infected prisons. Death is the inevitable

There is no doubt that a second wave of the virus is surging, and is ready to ravage the tinderboxes known as federal prisons. Experts warn that colder weather and drier air will result in an uptick of COVID-19 cases this winter. "As the cold weather will drive people indoors, we have to anticipate that there may be an acceleration in transmission and be prepared to handle the increased

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number of cases that may result," Amesh Adalja, M.D., FIDSA, Infectious Disease Specialist and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security. When the flu season coincides with the ongoing pandemic, we'll have an even bigger challenge on our hands — a twindemic.

COVID-19 survivors, people who have been hospitalized, treated ~~and~~ in intensive care, sedated, and supported by artificial breathing machines often have persistent organ damage or disability, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, speech therapy, dialysis and special kidney failure diets, and counseling for depression are all needed to support people as they recover from COVID-19. These ongoing health care needs are just starting to be recognized. Even after recovery, there is still a long road ahead for COVID-19 survivors.

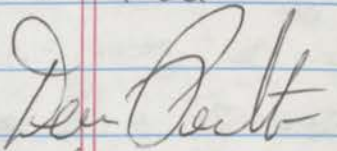
Contracting the Coronavirus leaves survivors with permanent organ damage that the disease inflicts on organ systems. Corona wreaks havoc on the body by attacking our lungs, our heart muscles and lining, our blood vessels, our kidneys, the liver, and the brain. Blood clots, seizures, amputations, strokes, acute hepatitis, diarrhea, memory loss, and loss of body parts are symptoms of Corona as well. The virus requires treatments such as amputations, dialysis, or continuous renal replacement therapy and causes fatigue and unco-

Uncontrolled blood pressure that lasts for months. Federal prisons are incubators for COVID-19 because a cough can push droplets up to **19** feet away, depending on a room's humidity, temperature, and air flow; a sneeze can push droplets up to 26 feet away. In fact, respiratory droplets from coughs and sneezes can remain in the air for three hours. People in prisons are being forced into making a DEATH WISH. The FBOP, by rejecting science, has put many American lives and health in jeopardy.

In conclusion, it is safe to say that COVID-19 is the victor. However, upon rematch, the FBOP can emerge victorious by switching their philosophy to decarceration. If not, COVID-19 will be the reigning champ, and occupy the FBOP for a long time making it a breeding ground for the virus, which will in turn continue to infect the United States of America civilians in a vicious cycle revolving over and over again. There may be a vaccine coming out, but there is no cure. A virus is not an organism. Corona virus is not alive, therefore you cannot kill it. You can either social distance, wear masks, and disinfect constantly or you can inhumanely gamble with people lives in a Russian roulette scenario and see if the inmates will survive, get extremely sick, or die. Not only are we living in a global pandemic, but also a racial pandemic. I truly believe that all lives matter, and all prisons need to

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be held accountable for avoidable sickness and death due to COVID-19.

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