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FM

## The Pandemic Journals (Day 256: Fake Tests?)

Today's journal entry comes as I make a simple accusation: Is USP Tucson faking the COVID-19 tests on inmates? A strong accusation, and one I could likely be outgunned on, should staff wish to refute.

But, I'm using an idea Socrates believed in, to consider all sides, peel away false information, to discover a truth - one USP Tucson has refused to tell any inmate. If I'm right, then what USP Tucson has been doing lately truly borders on criminal and immoral.

Let's begin, it's a short essay, but I'll walk you through it with a "pause" here and there to color things in:

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Day 256 with an odd scenario; they moved, as of 1:14 pm, 8 guys: Starr, Al, Kiesha, Ginger, VC, Shaw and 2 others. All from B2; not one of those 30 that came last Monday were moved. Positive tests? How could it?

(PAUSE: My unit is B2, which originally housed up to 128 inmates. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, we had our first positive COVID-19 amongst inmates on the compound, so the entire prison went on lockdown. From there, the virus spread like wildfire. In one dorm, C2, all but 4 inmates tested positive.

The prison, being poorly trained and lacking common sense, began shuffling inmates all across the prison like a deck of cards. They began moving inmates who tested positive to other dorms, which made no sense. And by shifting hundreds of inmates in and out of dorms, without even cleaning the cells, all the staff did was ensure every inmate got the virus. Mattresses were taken by inmates who tested positive, and given to another. Cells were not disinfected, and staff put inmates who had not tested positive into those cells - this is where those 30 inmates I mentioned came in. They were in B1 unit, and were forced to move into my unit, B2. But the cells were never disinfected, so those inmates, if they didn't take the time to clean it, walked right into a COVID-19 infested cell.

I mentioned the tests: from Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> to today, we began taking oxygen readings and temp scans. On Wednesdays, we were forced to have the uncomfortable nose swabs, all to identify who had tested positive. How accurate are those readings? →

Hold that thought, as we finish off the entry...

No nose swab test had been done since Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, eleven days ago, and they took those guys out Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. And today, for the first time in 27 days, there was no temperature reading or oxygen reading. So, where are the results coming from that 8 guys, all B2 guys, tested positive? Are they like drawing names out of a hat now, to lie and say that people here are testing positive, when there were no tests? 1:19 pm (End of entry).

Listen, I'll admit I'd like to win the argument and say plainly that this prison is clearly manipulating tests to get COVID-19 money, at our expense, but I also have an obligation to give you the truth. But the problem here at USP Tucson is that they give no credible information, and virtually every question we ask has been answered with a lie, or the classic, "I don't know".

So, I challenge the tests. Are they accurate? Local Arizona news says that the nose swabs are less than 50% accurate, and the state of Arizona was switching to saliva tests, which is more accurate. Why hasn't USP Tucson done the same?

Today, 8 inmates were moved. Based off what tests? There was no tests! You can't go by a nose swab 11 days ago, not when it takes only 15 minutes. And no nurse came in today - the previous 27 days, they came in between 8-9am every day. Why didn't they come in today?

None of this makes sense, the incompetence of staff leads me to believe that all this is to try to convince someone that we're all suffering - so the prison can get more money. In fact, one dorm officer actually said it - that USP Tucson is doing this to get "COVID money".

So, if this is true, they just moved 8 people who may not be COVID-19 positive... into a dorm full of COVID-19 positive inmates. And, if they get sick, who cares?

If they die, so what? USP Tucson gets more money, likely for a better "Officer Appreciation Week". There's so much more to add after this date, but I gotta keep it short. Look for my other essays as this unfolds... and pray for us; it's clear USP Tucson couldn't care less if we live or die in this pandemic.

To them, it's about money and torment - who then, are the real criminals?