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My name is Richard Farr and im currently incarcerated at Mid-State Correctional Facility in Wrightstown NJ. Im serving a 10-year sentence for 1st degree armed robbery and drug court violation. I was first locked up in Middlesex County then came to Mid-state on October 31 of 2019 at the age of 23. My first few months were hectic given the fact that this was my first adult prison sentence and I did not know what to expect. I know proper prison etiquette but there was nothing that could have prepared me for the corrections officers that oversee all inmates. These co's here are a lot like bullies. They like to boss inmates around they like to feel like they are more in charge than other officers and they feel like they have to make a name for themselves just like some inmates have to do as well. I good friend of mine was beat up by five officers just because he was thought to have cheeked his medication.

The scary part is if you fight back against these officers, you get a superior court charge and an ass whooping as well as another 3-5 years tacked onto your sentence. It is a surreal sense of life behind these walls. What is weird but expected is that these officers have crews and groups of each other just like us, inmates have and if one yells, they all yell so it puts a scary thought into one's mind at what might happen if you disobey. These cops here and their Sergeants think they are all high and mighty but let me tell you they are not. During the George Floyd protests, a Sgt came into the prison and told an inmate that if he did not obey that he would put his foot on his neck and called him the N word. These cops feel as if they could do what they want and say what they want how they want it because as soon as someone tries to put them out there they take that inmate and either send him to another prison or they shut him up. We are on Fort Dix military base and every now and then, our entire water system turns brown from the base flushing their system.

So the military base gives this prison hundreds of cases of water to give to the 600 inmates here, so instead of giving them to us so we can drink them they give them to all the officers and sell cases of water to all inmates on canteen for \$4.56 plus tax. The last person to write this up was sent out to another prison, so it is really messed up and inmates are scared to write stuff up due to retaliation but I cannot hide this anymore. Now to the most serious thing, I have been in this prison when this world first heard about the coronavirus and when this prison had its outbreak. I was on the first unit to test positive quarantine and have people die on. I tested positive my damn self and none of it was pretty. Constantly throughout the first 3 weeks of the pandemic I wrote to medical telling them I had, trouble breathing had a cough and runny nose. Now I have bad asthma and when I was called, down to medical they told me like they tell everyone else to drink water stay hydrated take Motrin and mucinex and lay done.

Now they told this to about 30-60 inmates and about eight from my unit. Now on April 2, someone on my tier died and he died on the tier and the admin here said that it was not from covid and that he was going to die on the street or in here, it was going to happen anywhere. Right after he died we had three people leave the unit with fevers over 100.4 and had two inmates got to the hospital. Two inmates from my tier tested positive and died. Now when they had a fever and were mover off the unit the staff here and cops did not come on to the unit and clean their bed areas of clothes all they did was lock their lockers and left everything there. So when they left to go to the hospital all of the rest of us who were on that tier were subject to his sickness and covid-19 that had been lingering on his clothes and bed area. In addition, the officer's here are very defiant to Governor Phil murphy's mandatory mask order. Most of these cops are seen with their masks down under their chin or just totally off and it's a very scary sight because the absolute only way that us inmates can test positive for this virus is if a cop staff or medical civilian brings it in from the streets so it's very imperative that these officer's wear their masks at all times like we have to do as well.

At a point in time a lot of us were scared that we might catch the virus and that we had minor symptoms so we would all be going down to medical to try and be seen and at one point Sgt Webb told all of us inmates just on unit 3W that if we felt sick he would bring us down to medical but if we didn't have a fever he would write us 2 institutional charges, For lying a and 2 for feigning and illness. They did not start passing out masks until April 10 a total of 4 weeks after the first inmate who got sick. We were told by administration on April 2 that covid-19 was not in the building but on April 5, a Lieutenant told us inmates that covid-19 is in the building. My unit 3 west was on quarantine for a total of 54 days in which none of us was allowed recreation visits or to go off the unit. If we put in a sick call, the nurse had to come to us when she could. In just the month of April New Jersey had 29 inmates all in NJ prisons die from covid-19 and three came from Mid-State. They all ranged from ages 37-76 and they all have been locked up since between 1975-2019. I want to put it out there that this prison as long as a whole lot of others not just in NJ but in the U.S.A had absolutely no control or idea at what they were doing when it came to this pandemic and handled it in the most un-professional and inhumane way and its very upsetting and depressing that we all had to endure what we went through. Let my words and experiences be the reason that New Jersey and the country may have certain guidelines as to what to do in case anything like this happens every again. Im Richard Farr and inmate at Mid-State Correctional Facility and I hope this helps with anything you may know or want to know about what here with the pandemic that has shocked the world and if you want more firsthand experience you have my information. Thank you very much for taking your time to read my experience and thoughts and I hope you are all in good health. Stay healthy and positive we will all get through this with the help of each other.

Respectfully Submitted,

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