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COVID-19 - Something to Be Grateful For

So far, Stanley prison has not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19. The reason is that we are located out in the middle of nowhere. There are no major metropolitan areas near Stanley. The closest city is Eau Claire which is 45 minutes away and only has about 68,000 people living there. Another hour beyond that is Minneapolis, Minnesota, which is a huge metropolitan area. COVID-19 is spreading within Minneapolis but has not migrated extensively to Eau Claire.

Hopefully, prison staff will not be running around out in public during their off-duty hours. We'll be able to weather the pandemic without ever being put at risk. However, if COVID-19 does get into the prison we have another advantage. Since this prison was built to be a maximum security prison, all the cells are "wet cells" (meaning that they all have toilets and sinks in them). As long as the two prisoners in a cell are both COVID-19-free, they will be safe from infection. In a normal medium security prison, the cells are normal rooms and the bathroom is a communal facility which everybody in the housing unit uses. Quarantining prisoners in the other medium prisons will not be as effective because prisoners will still have to leave their cells to use the toilet.

In the past, wet cells in Stanley have always been a curse because it allows staff to confine us to our cells for an average of 14 hours per day. We are also locked in our cells at night (something not done in other medium security prisons).

I guess that proves the adage that "there's a silver lining in every cloud."