

THE DYCD
HEROES PROJECT

THE
COMIC
BOOK
PROJECT

NYC
Department of
Youth & Community
Development

HISTORY IN ACTION

Inspired by NYC youths participating in the DYCD Heroes Project

JUNE 2021



Character and story development by Che-Ann Gaskin,
New Heights Middle School / Play Study Win, Brooklyn

Art by Marcus Kwame Anderson

HISTORY IN ACTION

NYC Youth Discover the Past and Prepare for the Future

Welcome!

This comic book is a production of the **NYC Department of Youth & Community Development's Broadway and Beyond** program. During the 2020-2021 school year, youths from across New York City created original videos and comic books on the theme of retelling history. Through a collaboration between **DYCD** and **The Comic Book Project**, youths in all five boroughs of the city learned how to create comics, examine history with a lens of critical analysis, and develop original characters and storylines based on historical themes.

This comic was inspired by the story and art created by a middle school participant named Che-Ann Gaskin at New Heights Middle School / Play Study Win. Our special guest artist, Marcus Kwame Anderson, used Che-Ann's work as the foundation for this annual publication. We hope you enjoy the comic book!

For more information:

NYC Department of Youth and Community Development: www.nyc.gov/dycd

The Comic Book Project: www.comicbookproject.org

Marcus Kwame Anderson: www.marcuskwame.com

MARCH, 2020



SLAM

HEY CHE-ANN,
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT
MS. ROSS?



NO, WHAT
HAPPENED?

I HEARD SHE'S
GOING TO BE OUT SICK
FOR A WHILE.

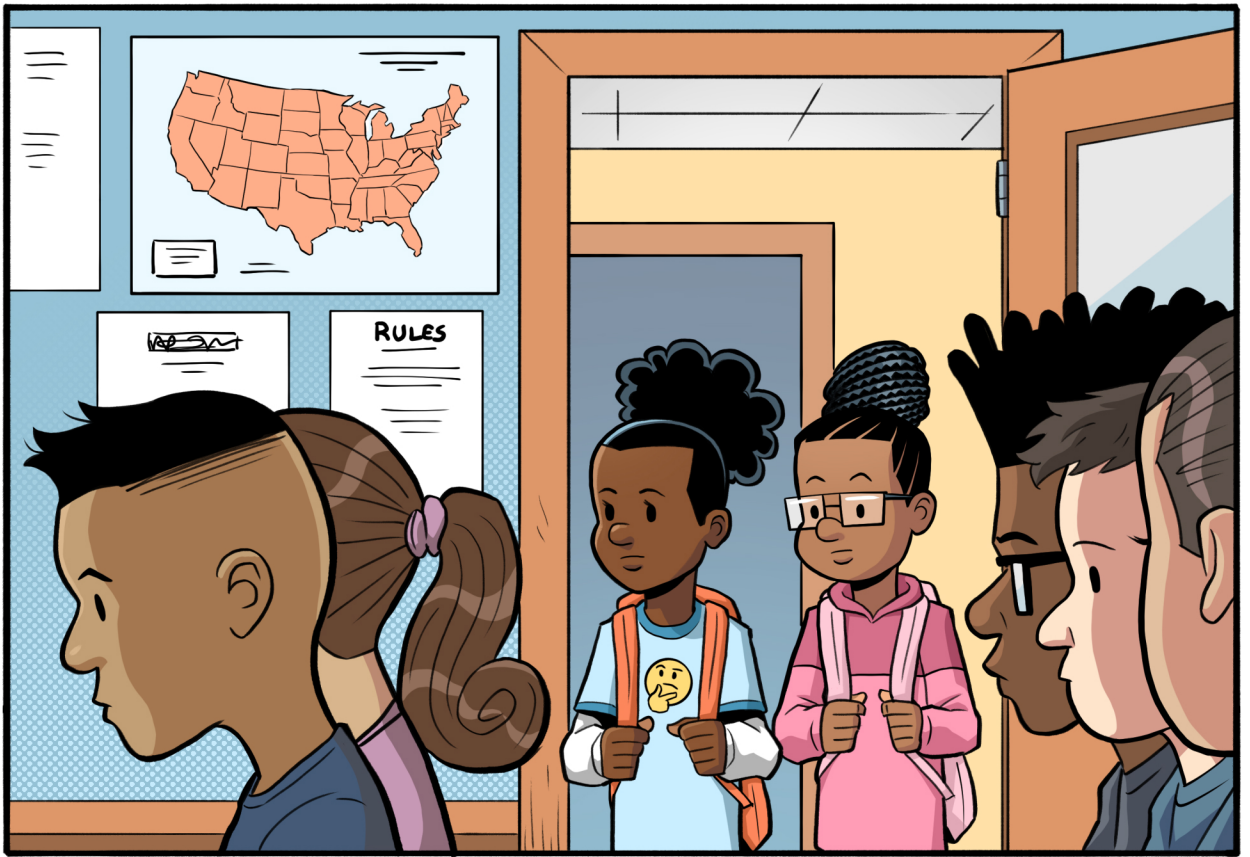


I HOPE SHE'S OK.

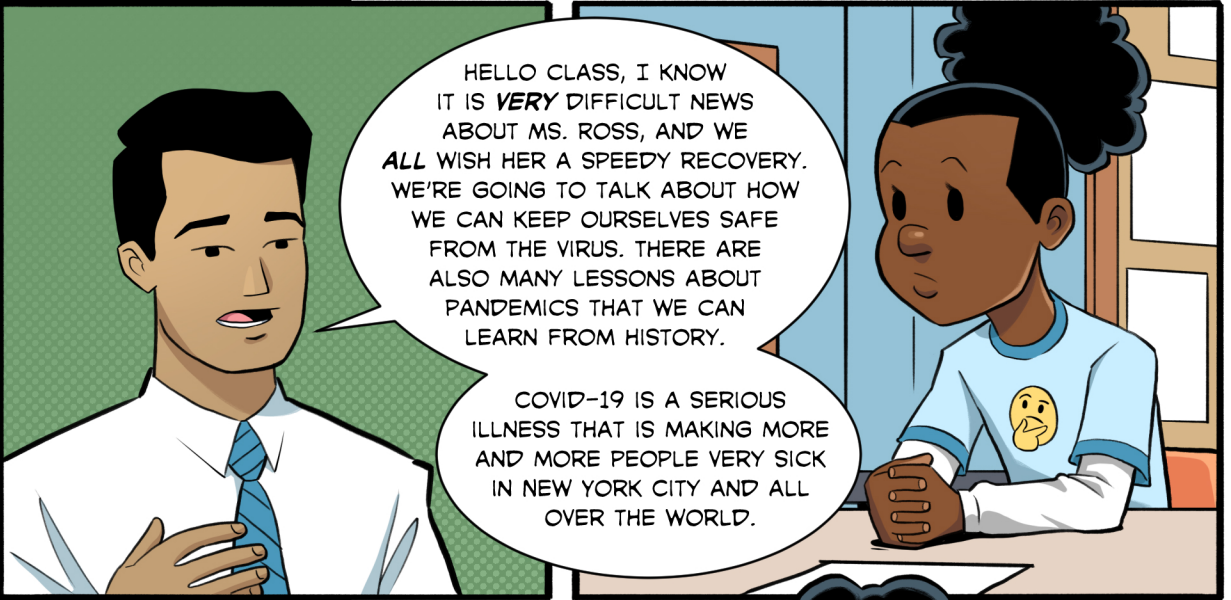
YEAH,
ME TOO.

257



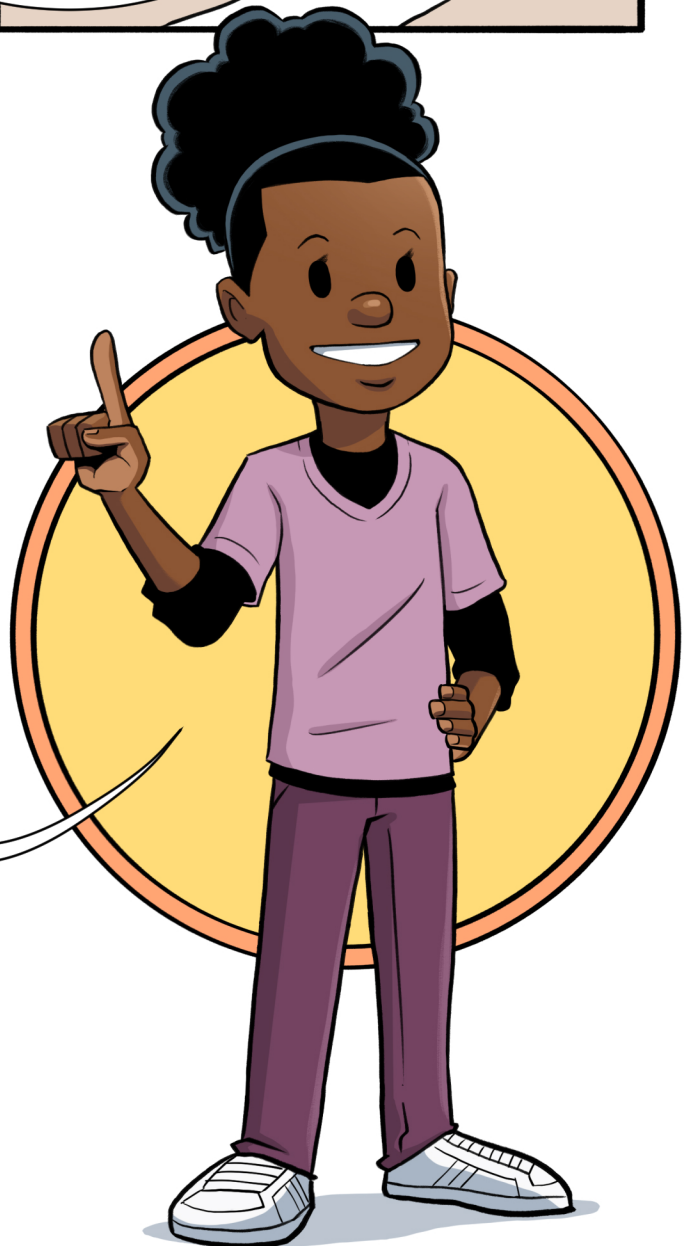






HELLO CLASS, I KNOW IT IS **VERY** DIFFICULT NEWS ABOUT MS. ROSS, AND WE **ALL** WISH HER A SPEEDY RECOVERY. WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN KEEP OURSELVES SAFE FROM THE VIRUS. THERE ARE ALSO MANY LESSONS ABOUT PANDEMICS THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM HISTORY.

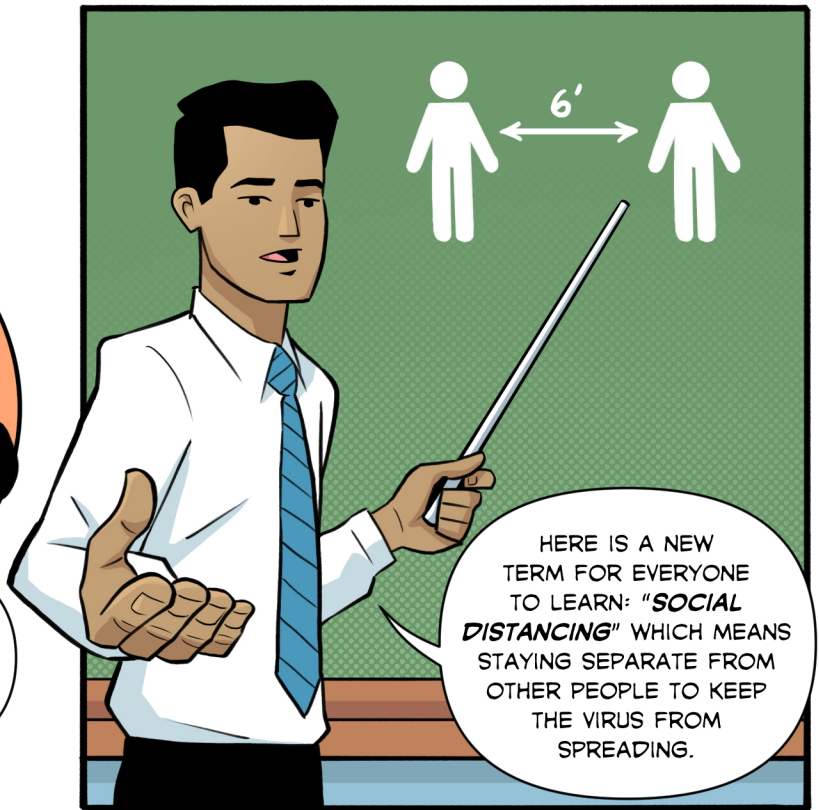
COVID-19 IS A SERIOUS ILLNESS THAT IS MAKING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE VERY SICK IN NEW YORK CITY AND ALL OVER THE WORLD.



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WAS A **YEAR AGO** WHEN WE FIRST LEARNED ABOUT COVID-19 AND MS. ROSS GETTING SICK. THAT WAS A **REALLY** DIFFICULT TIME FOR EVERYONE. FORTUNATELY, MR. ALEX HELPED US UNDERSTAND ALL ABOUT THE VIRUS.



MR. ALEX PRESENTED WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VIRUS AFTER READING RESEARCH REPORTS AND HEARING NEWS FROM RELIABLE SOURCES.



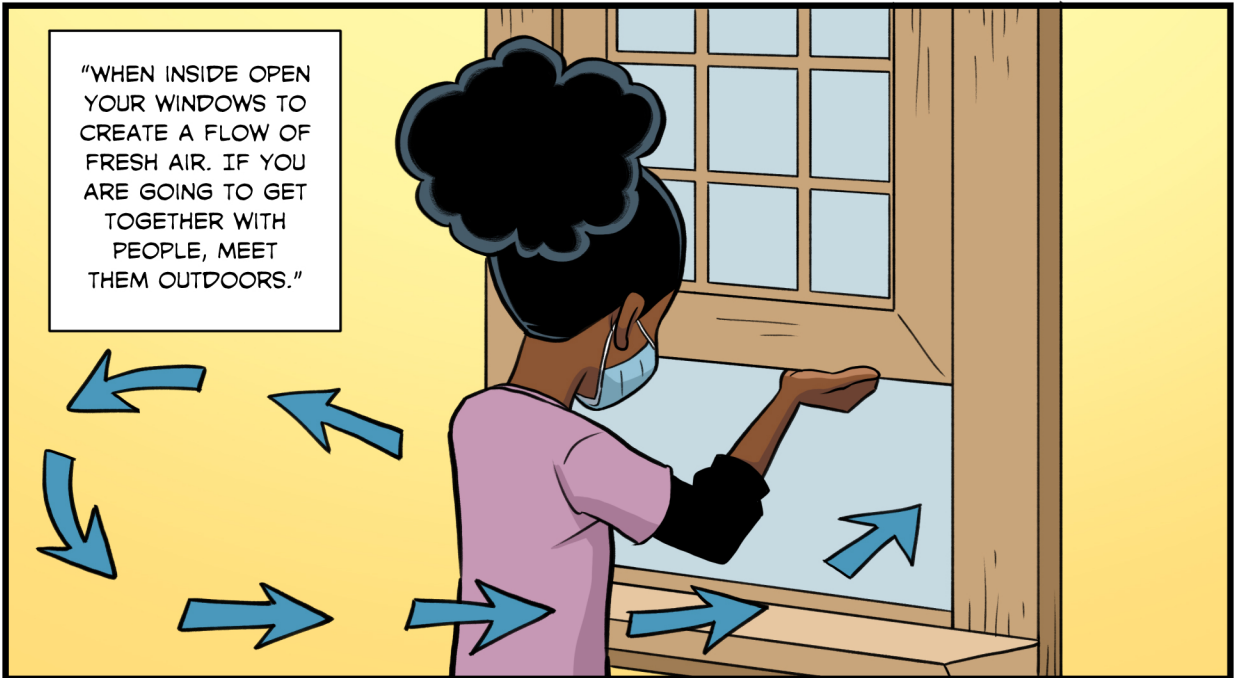
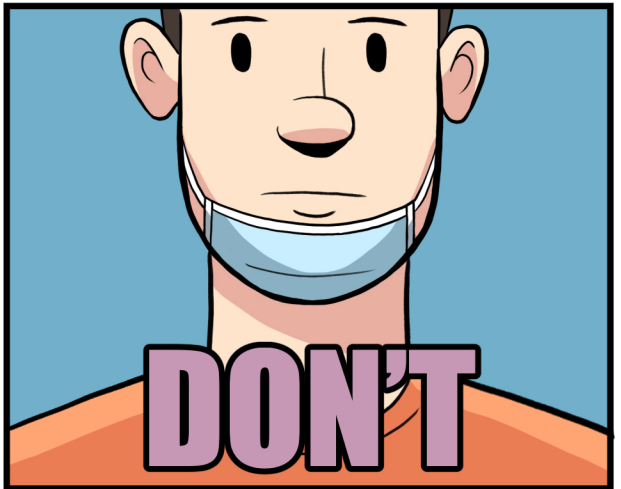
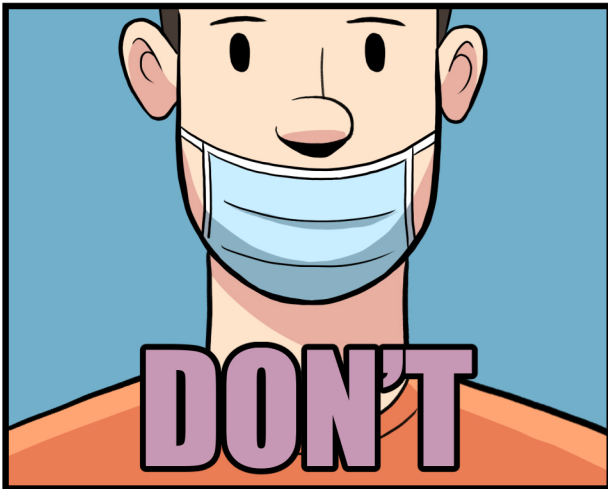
HERE IS A NEW TERM FOR EVERYONE TO LEARN: "**SOCIAL DISTANCING**" WHICH MEANS STAYING SEPARATE FROM OTHER PEOPLE TO KEEP THE VIRUS FROM SPREADING.

AH-CHOOO!!



"MR. ALEX TOLD US HOW THE VIRUS IS SPREAD BY AEROSOLS, WHICH ARE DROPLETS OF MOISTURE DISTRIBUTED INTO THE AIR WHEN A PERSON COUGHS, SNEEZES, OR EVEN JUST BREATHESES. THE FURTHER AWAY YOU ARE FROM A PERSON INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS, THE LESS LIKELY YOU ARE TO CATCH IT."



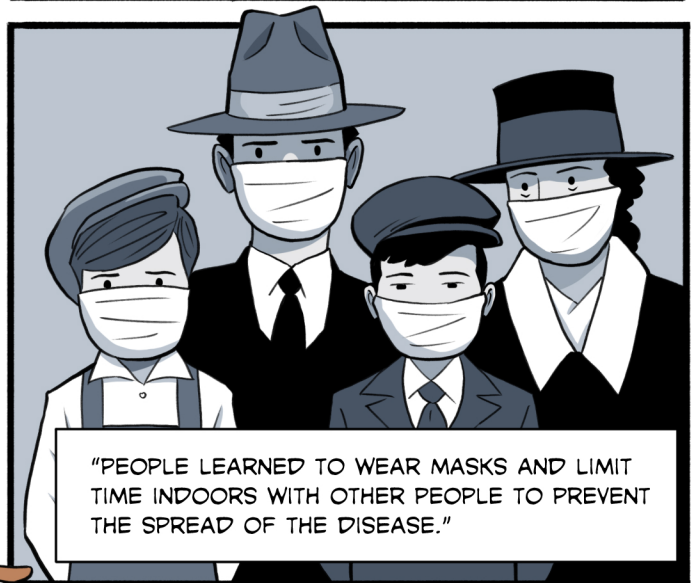


1918

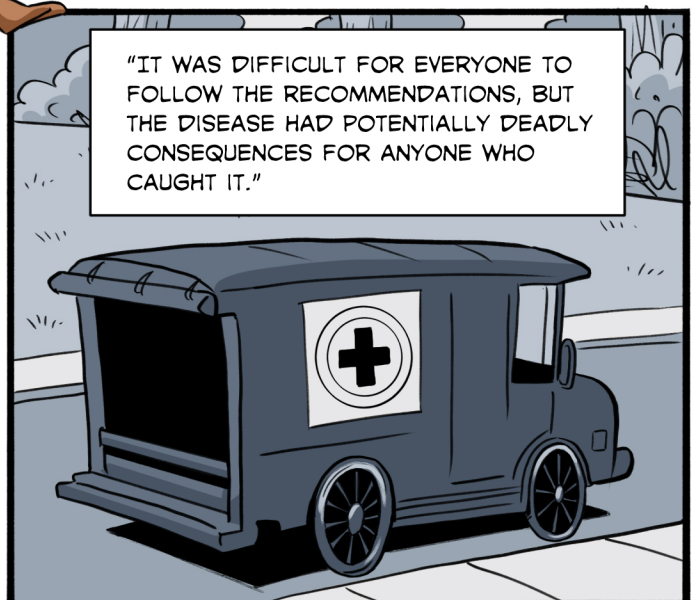
ONE OF THE REALLY COOL THINGS WE LEARNED FROM MR. ALEX IS THAT COVID-19 IS **NOT** THE FIRST PANDEMIC TO HIT NEW YORK CITY. THE 1918 FLU PANDEMIC KILLED AN ESTIMATED 50 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING 675,000 PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE EXPERIENCES THAT PEOPLE HAD BACK THEN WERE SO SIMILAR TO TODAY.



"THE 1918 FLU WAS SPREAD BY PEOPLE INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS COMING INTO CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. THERE WERE SEVERAL WAVES OF THE FLU, AND THE HOSPITAL WARDS QUICKLY FILLED UP WITH SICK PATIENTS."



"PEOPLE LEARNED TO WEAR MASKS AND LIMIT TIME INDOORS WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE."





"IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR EVERYONE TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT THE DISEASE HAD POTENTIALLY DEADLY CONSEQUENCES FOR ANYONE WHO CAUGHT IT."



MANY CITIES HAD TO CLOSE SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES. LARGE PUBLIC GATHERINGS WERE PROHIBITED. SCIENTISTS WORKED HARD TO HELP THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS. OF COURSE, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE INTERNET IN 1918, SO THEY HAD TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THROUGH POSTERS, FLYERS, AND NEWSPAPERS.

Wear a Mask





STAMP OUT THE Spanish Influenza
By Wearing a Mask

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA

This Disease is Highly Communicable.
It May Develop into a Severe Pneumonia.

TO MAKE A MASK

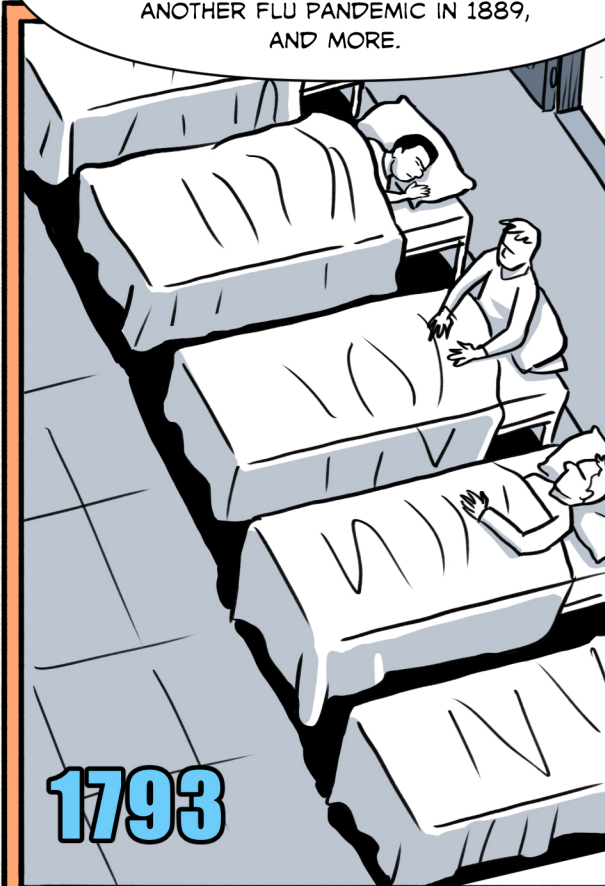


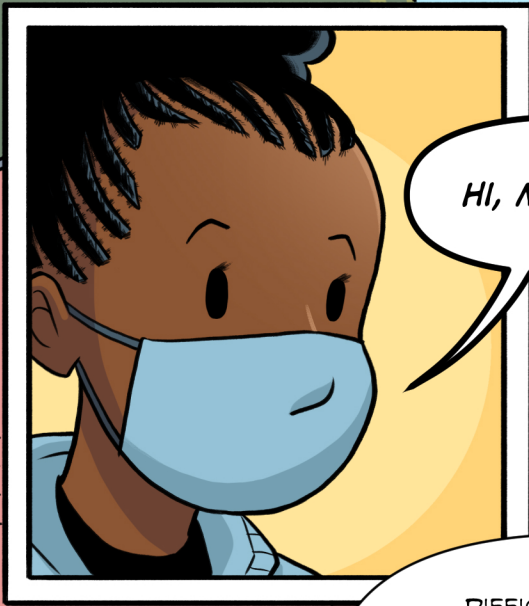
ISSUED BY THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH



AFTER THAT DAY
WE BEGAN TO ATTEND SCHOOL
VIRTUALLY WITH MS. ROSS AS OUR TEACHER.
WE LEARNED ABOUT EVEN MORE DISEASES
THROUGHOUT HISTORY, INCLUDING THE 1793
YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC IN PHILADELPHIA,
ANOTHER FLU PANDEMIC IN 1889,
AND MORE.

WITH EACH OF THESE TERRIBLE
DISEASES, PEOPLE HAD TO WORK TOGETHER
AND UNDERSTAND THE WAYS TO KEEP THEM
SAFE. MANY OF THOSE SAFETY MEASURES
ARE THE SAME ONES WE HAD TO PUT
INTO PLACE BECAUSE OF COVID-19.





HI, MS. ROSS!

I HAD A DIFFICULT RECOVERY BUT I'M FEELING BETTER NOW. THANKS TO VACCINES, THINGS SEEM TO BE GETTING BETTER, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP VIGILANT TO MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND AVOID FUTURE PANDEMICS.

AS WE HAVE LEARNED WHEN IT COMES TO VIRUSES, "HISTORY TENDS TO REPEAT ITSELF."



THE END

Participating Programs

Commonpoint Queens - Samuel Field Y

University Settlement - Ingersoll

Good Shepherd Services - Miccio Community Center

Graham Windham - Manhattanville Cornerstone Community Center

Brooklyn Community Services - Brooklyn High School for Leadership
And Community Service

Sesame Flyers International - Winthrop Beacon

Play Study Win - New Heights Middle School

Good Shepherd Services - Brooklyn Scholars Charter School

New York Edge - PS 121X

Children's Aid - Whitney Young Jr. Campus

Graham Windham - Harlem Beacon @ PS 123

Cypress Hills LDC - PS 65

Brooklyn Community Services - PS 156/Waverly School of the Arts

North Brooklyn Development Corporation - PS 110/The Monitor

Infinity Educational Programs - Infinity Learning Labs

CAMBA - Beacon 166

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens

The logo features the letters 'NYC' in a large, bold, black, blocky font with a small 'TM' trademark symbol to the upper right. Below this, the words 'Department of Youth & Community Development' are stacked in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered within a light blue circle that has a thick black border. The background of the page is a dark blue-grey color with a diagonal split into a yellow section on the right side.

NYCTM

**Department of
Youth & Community
Development**

**For more information
on DYCD and our services:**

1-800-246-4646

@nycyouth

<https://www.nyc.gov/dycd>