TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!





ARE COVID-19 VACCINES **SAFE**?
DO YOU **REALLY** NEED TO GET ONE?
READ THIS STORY TO FIND OUT!

WE ENGAGE 4 HEALTH IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARDS.

HTTPS://WEENGAGE4HEALTH.LIFE

Welcome to our story!

Before reading it, you might be wondering...



Information on COVID-19 and vaccines is useful, but I can find it everywhere. Why read this story?

Modern research into how our brains work clues us in to why stories are both pleasurable and powerful! Scientists know that using language (talking or reading) activates Wernicke's area of the brain where words are processed. That happens no matter what kind of reading or conversation is going on.

But… when listening to or reading a story, many other parts of the brain are activated, depending on events and descriptions in the story. The brain responds to story events as if they are actually happening to the reader or listener!

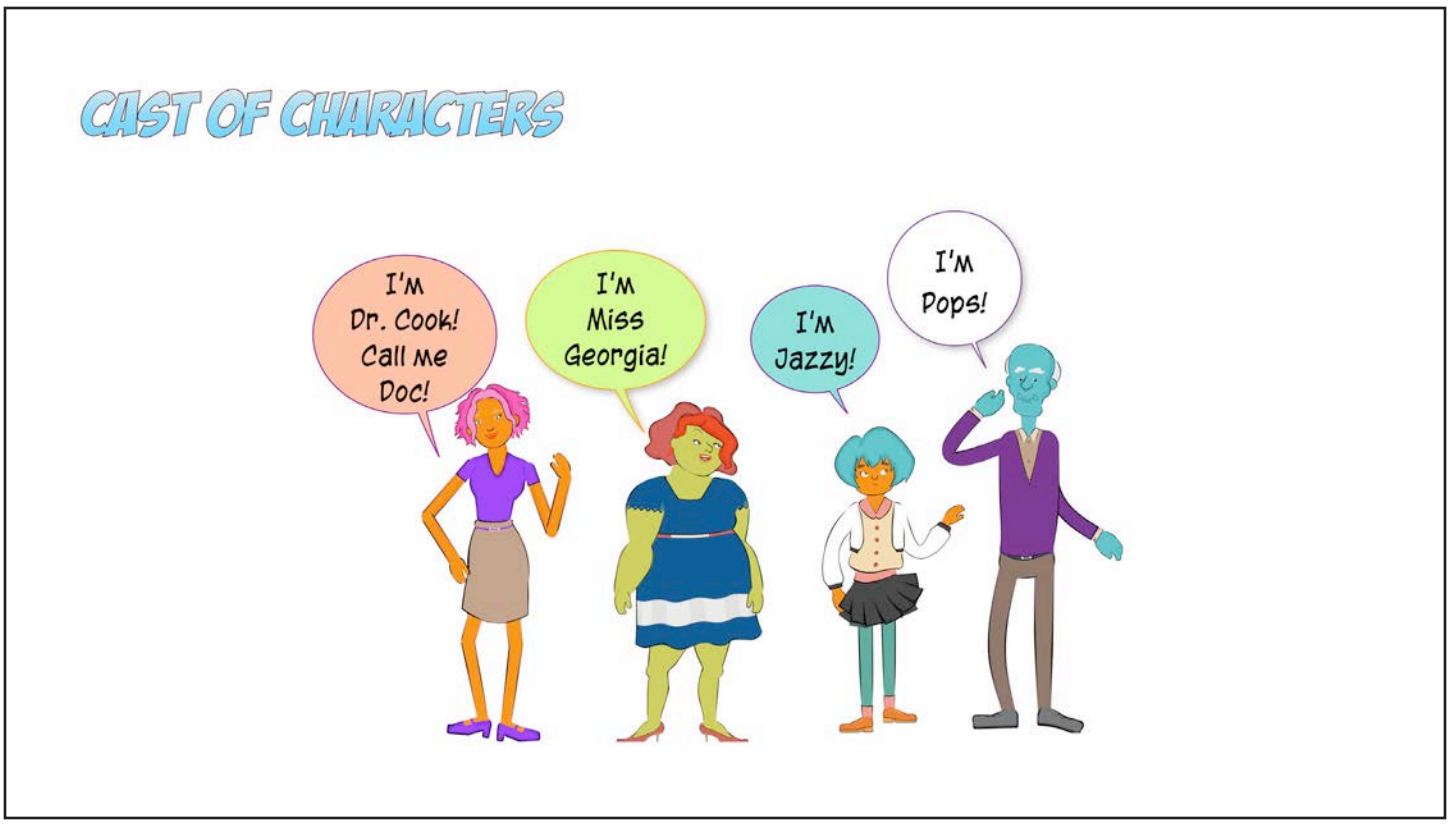
Another cool effect of stories is that character-driven stories with emotional content prompt the brain to make more of a chemical called oxytocin. Oxytocin boosts the empathy and motivation of listeners.

Is this story just for kids?

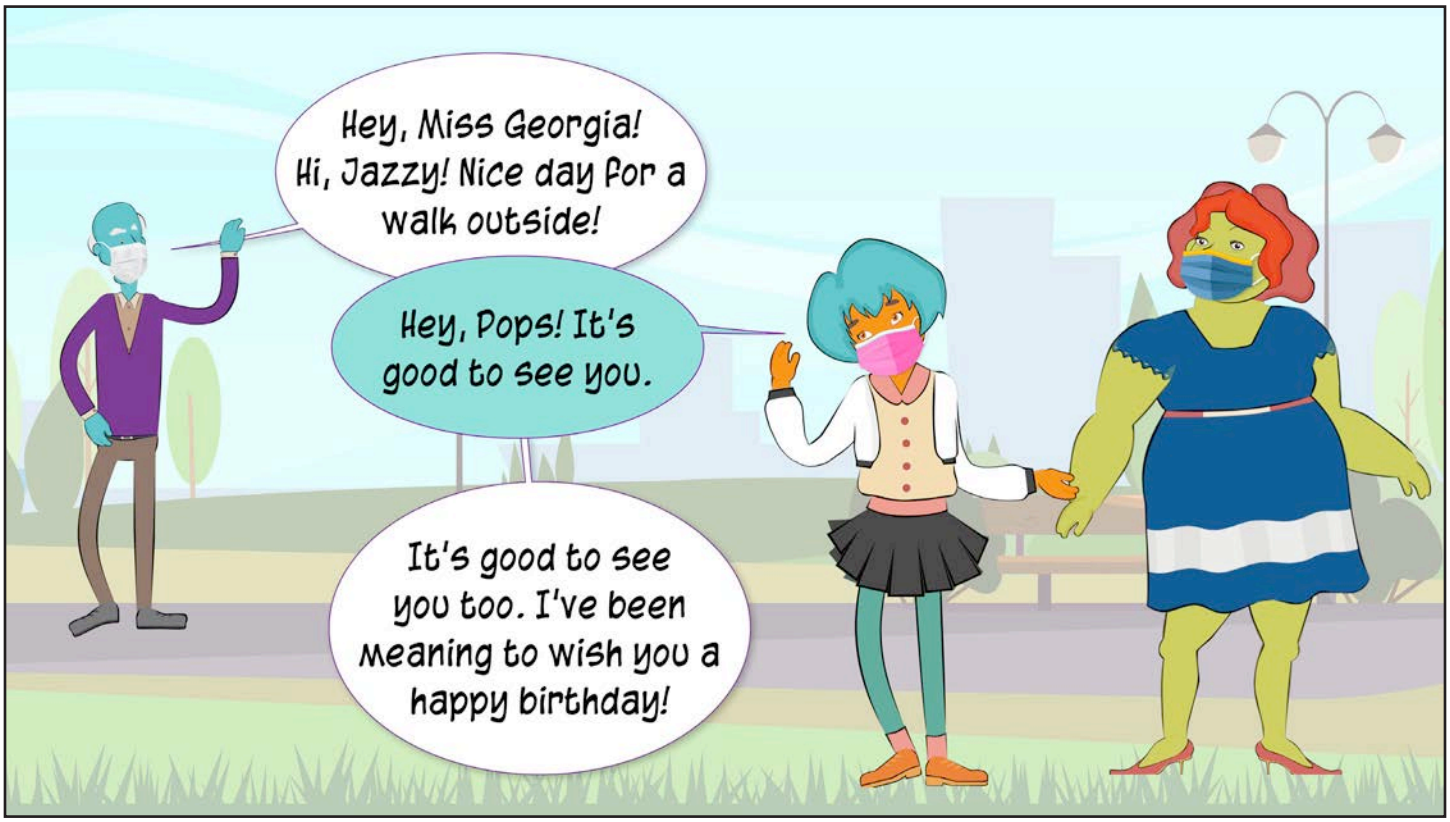
You might think a story in a comic style is just for kids, but this story is designed for everyone middle school age and up. The comic or graphic style story is perfect for sharing health information with a wide audience because graphic stories can present complex material with engaging graphics and readable text.

Who created this story?

This story was created by the team at We Engage 4 Health (WE4H). WE4H is supported by the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) Program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) award number R25GM129808. Visit us at www.WE4H.life!



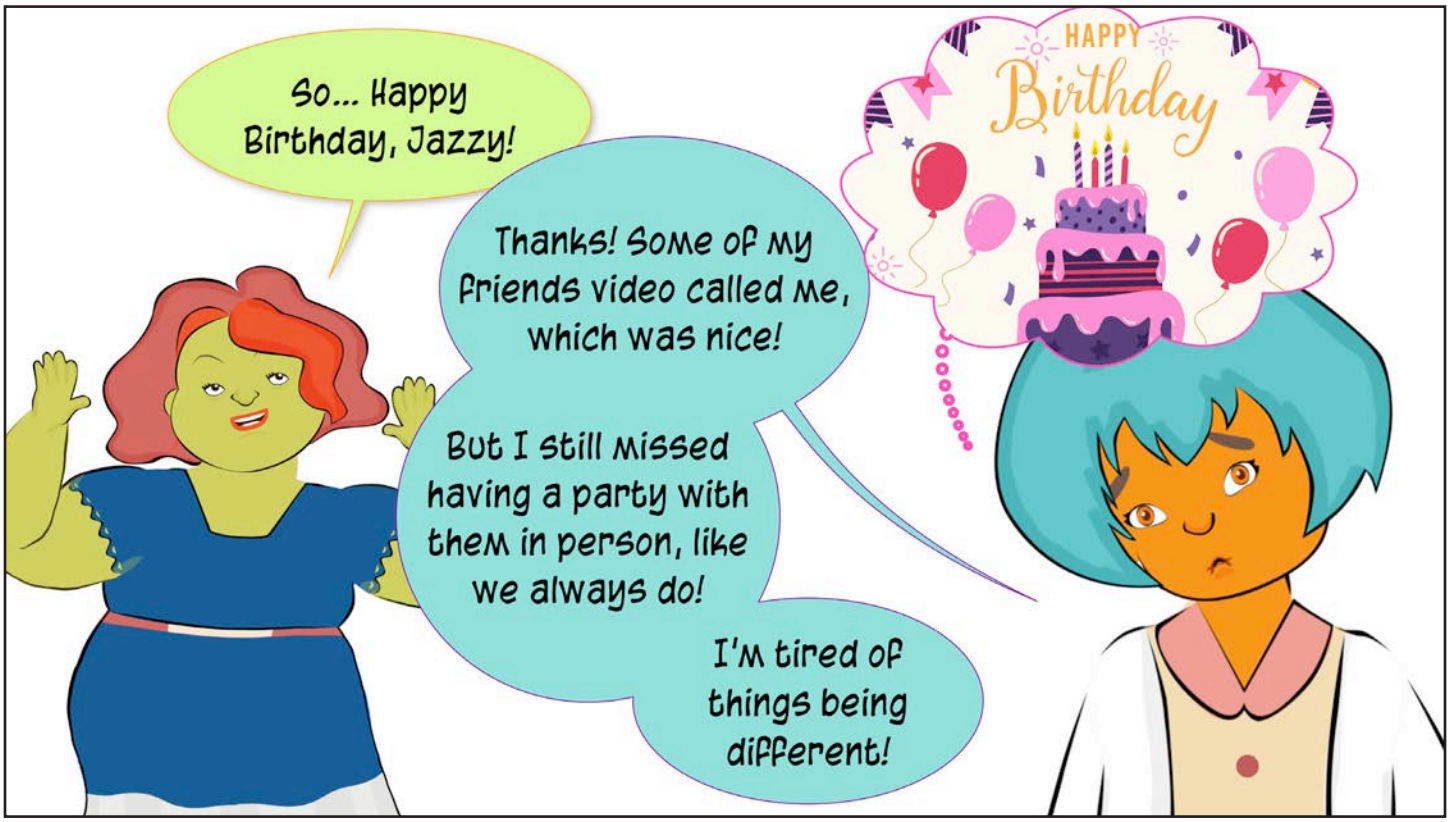
PANEL 1



PANEL 2



PANEL 3



PANEL 4

I know, I'm tired of these COVID-19 restrictions too. It's hard distancing from people and wearing masks.

But, it's important to keep everyone safe.

I know. You're right.

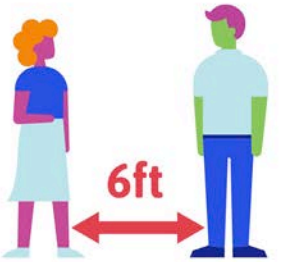
Hey, what about the COVID-19 vaccine I keep hearing about? Won't we be able to stop doing these things after we all get vaccinated?

PANEL 5

Yes, it's great that we have vaccines now to protect us against COVID-19.

Vaccines will gradually lower the number of people with COVID-19. When the number of cases is very, very low, we can get back to normal.

Until then, even with the vaccine, we still need to social distance and wear masks.

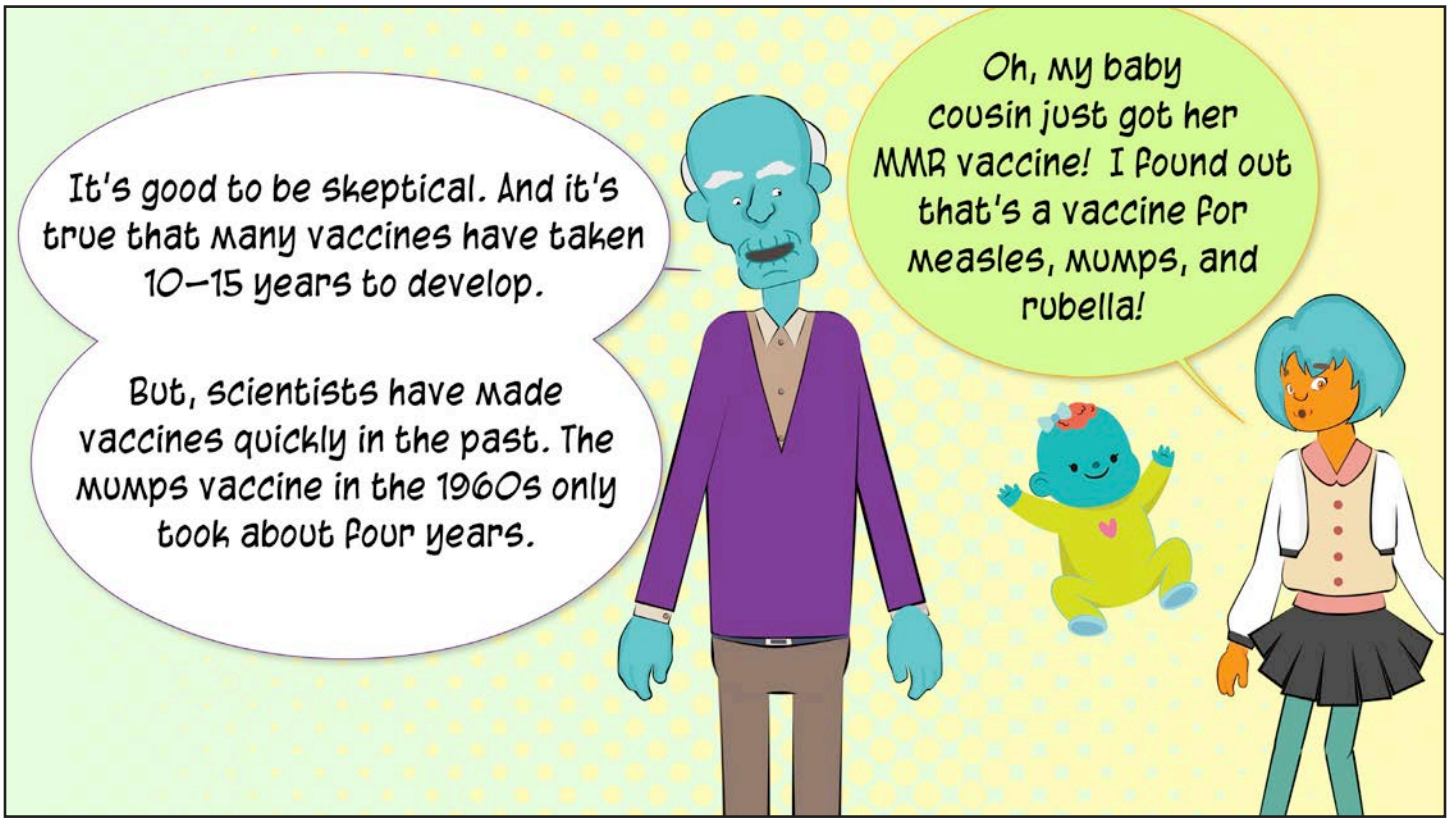




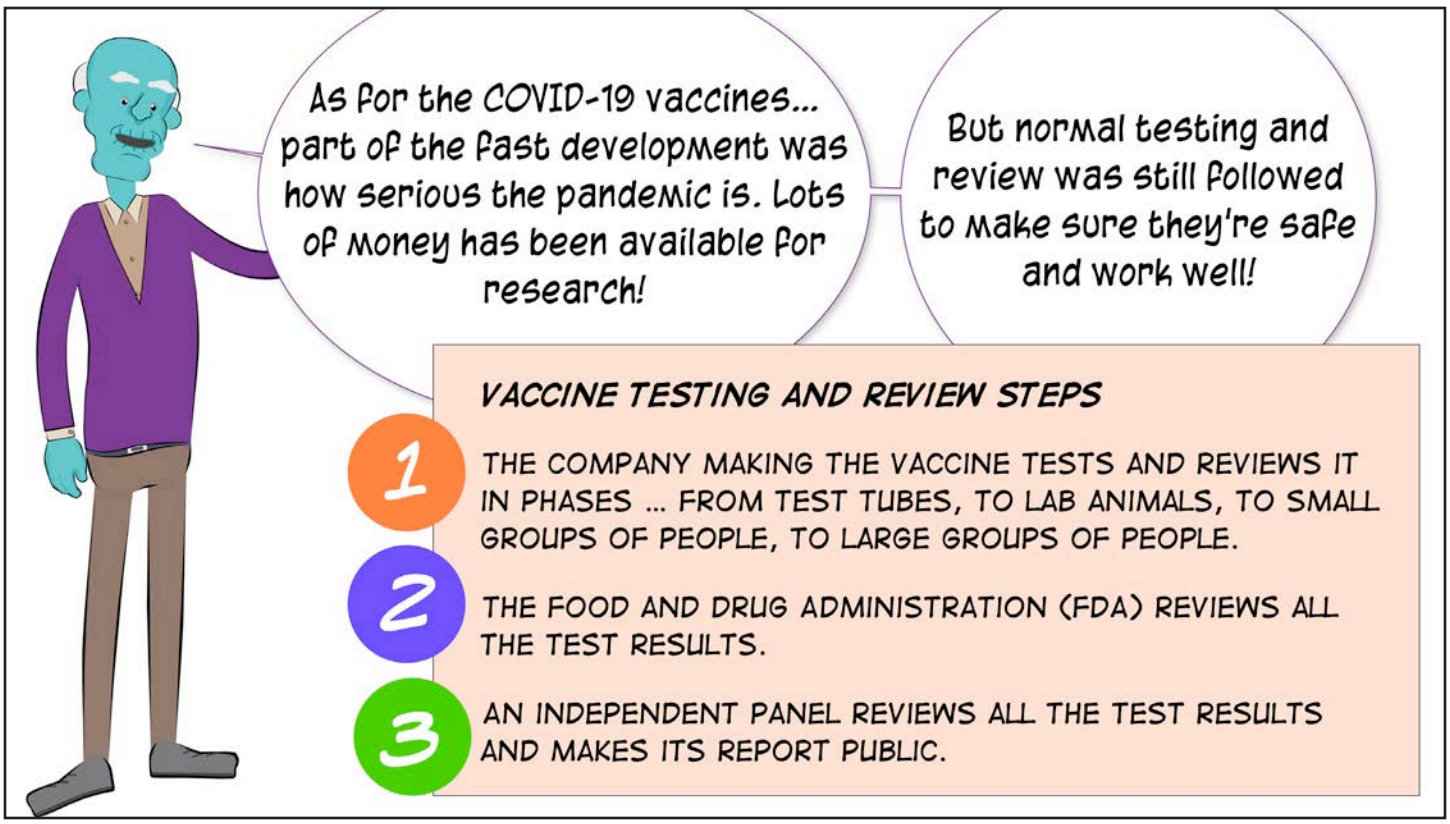
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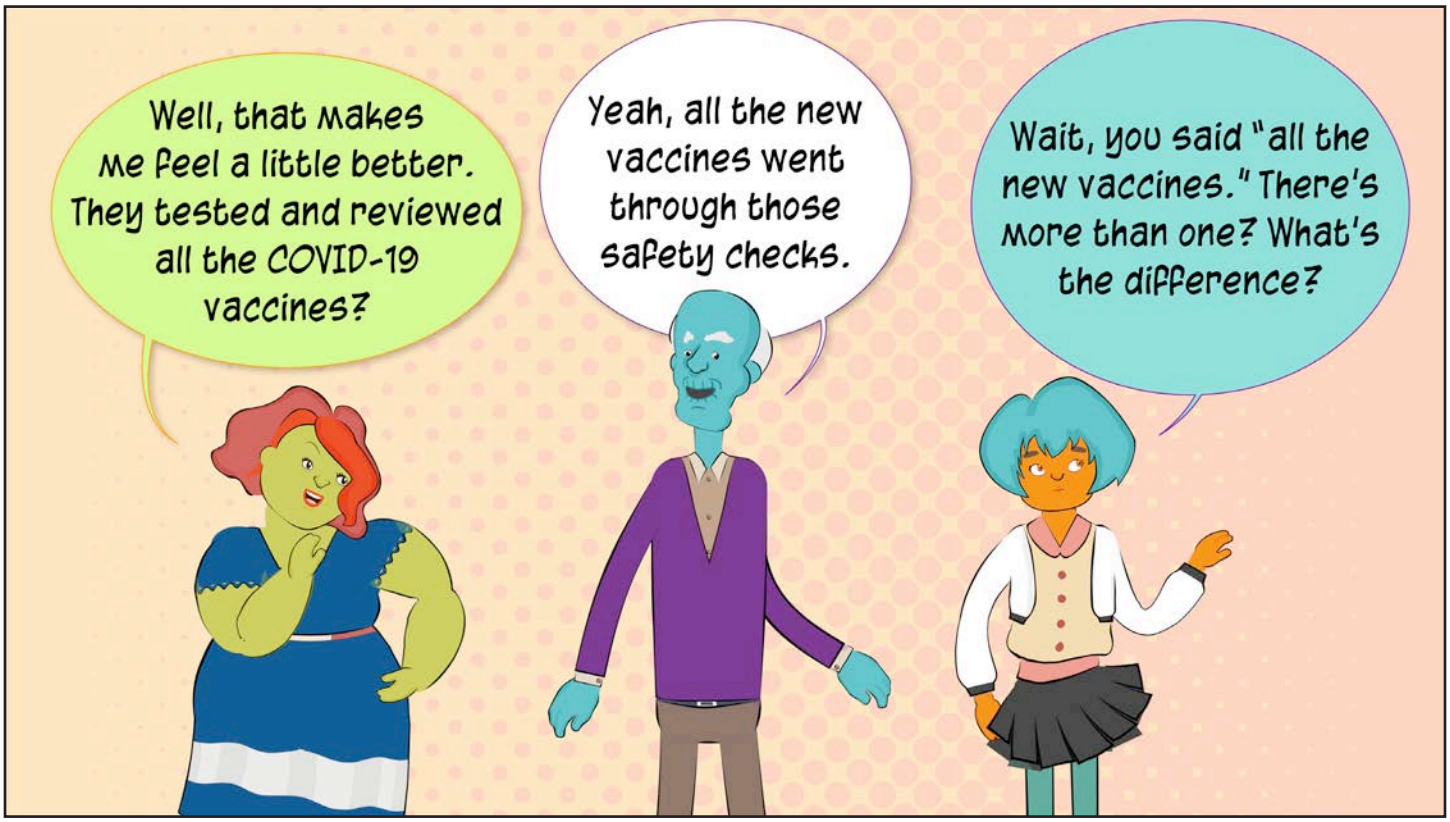
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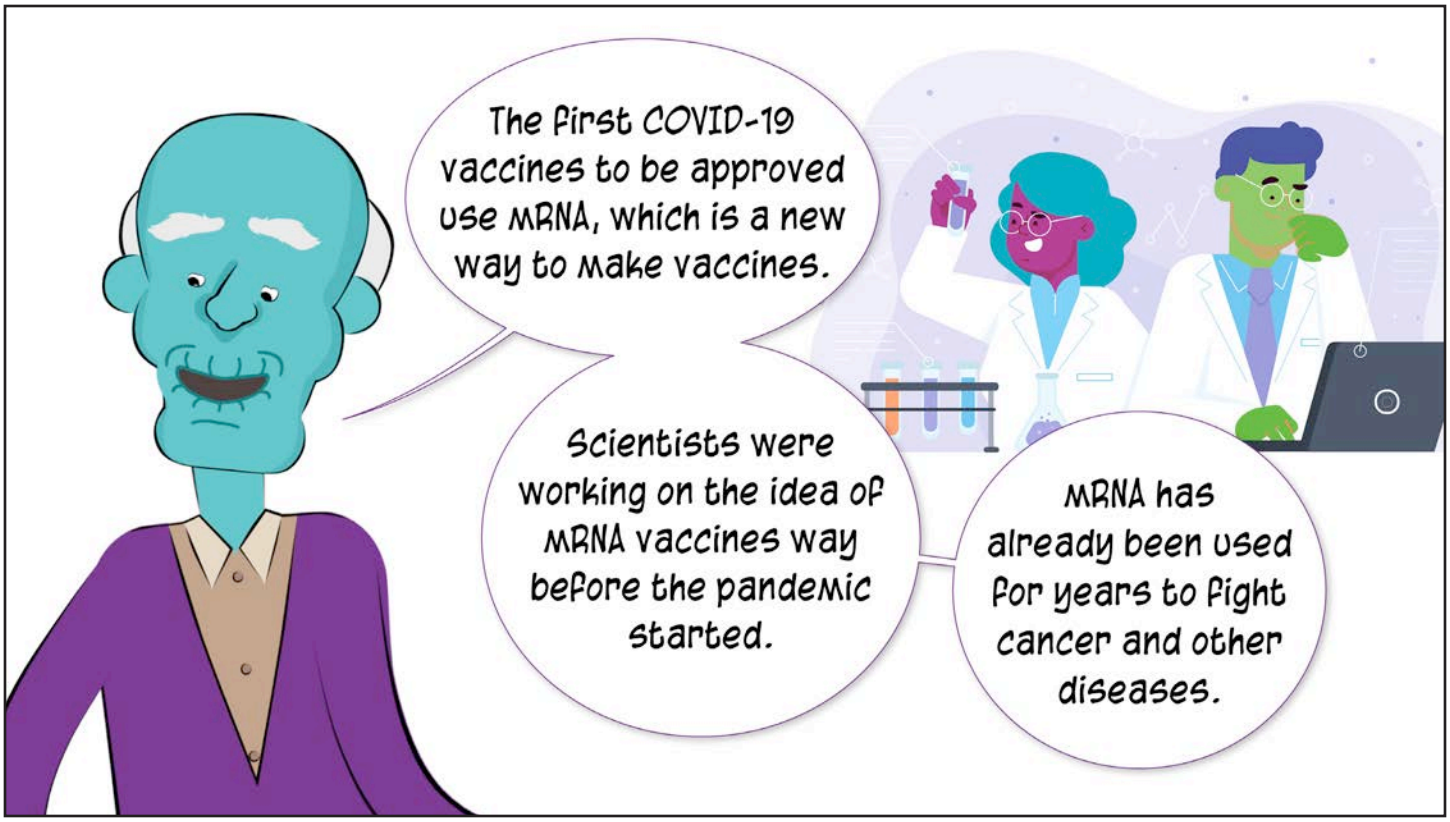
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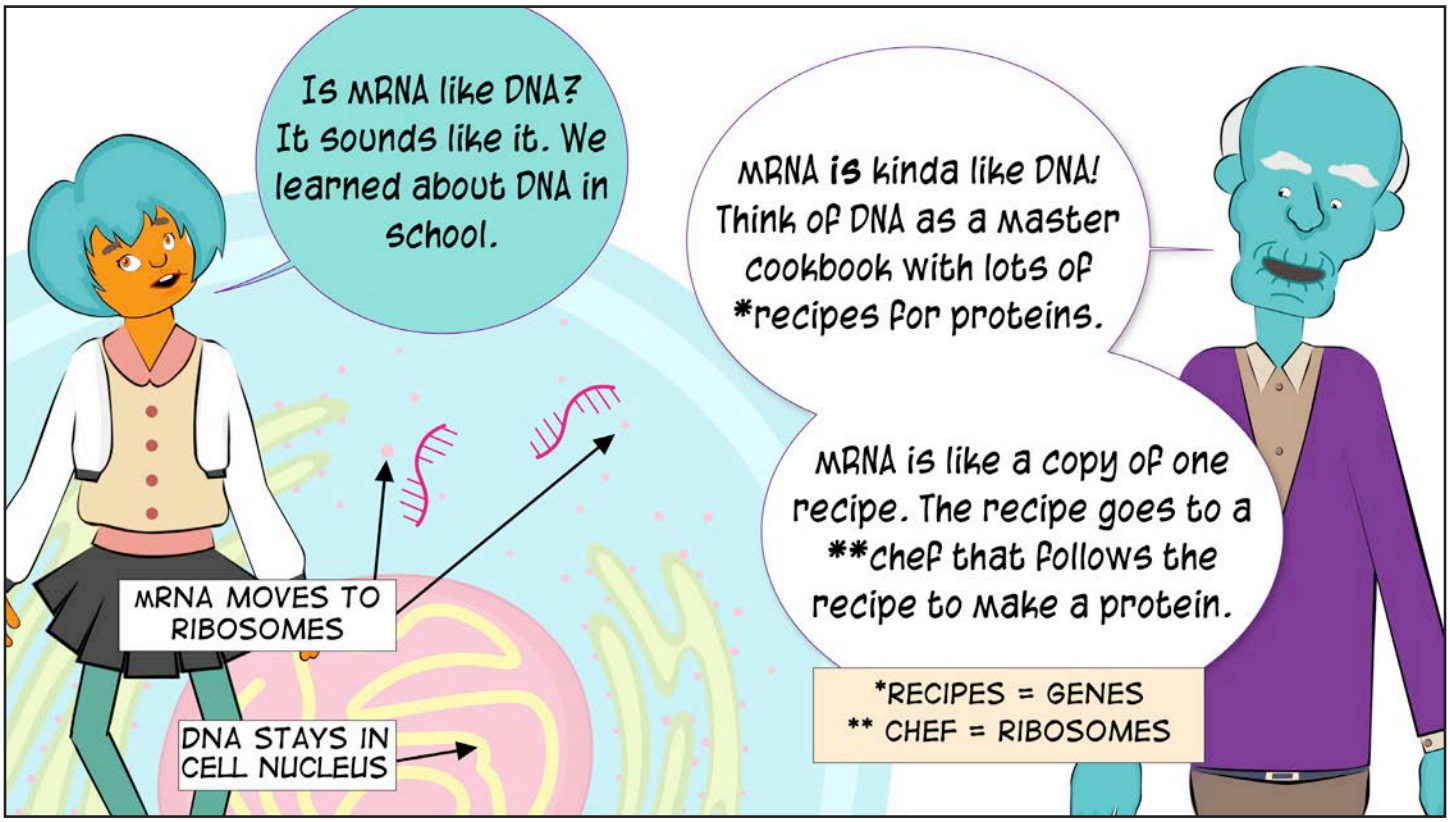
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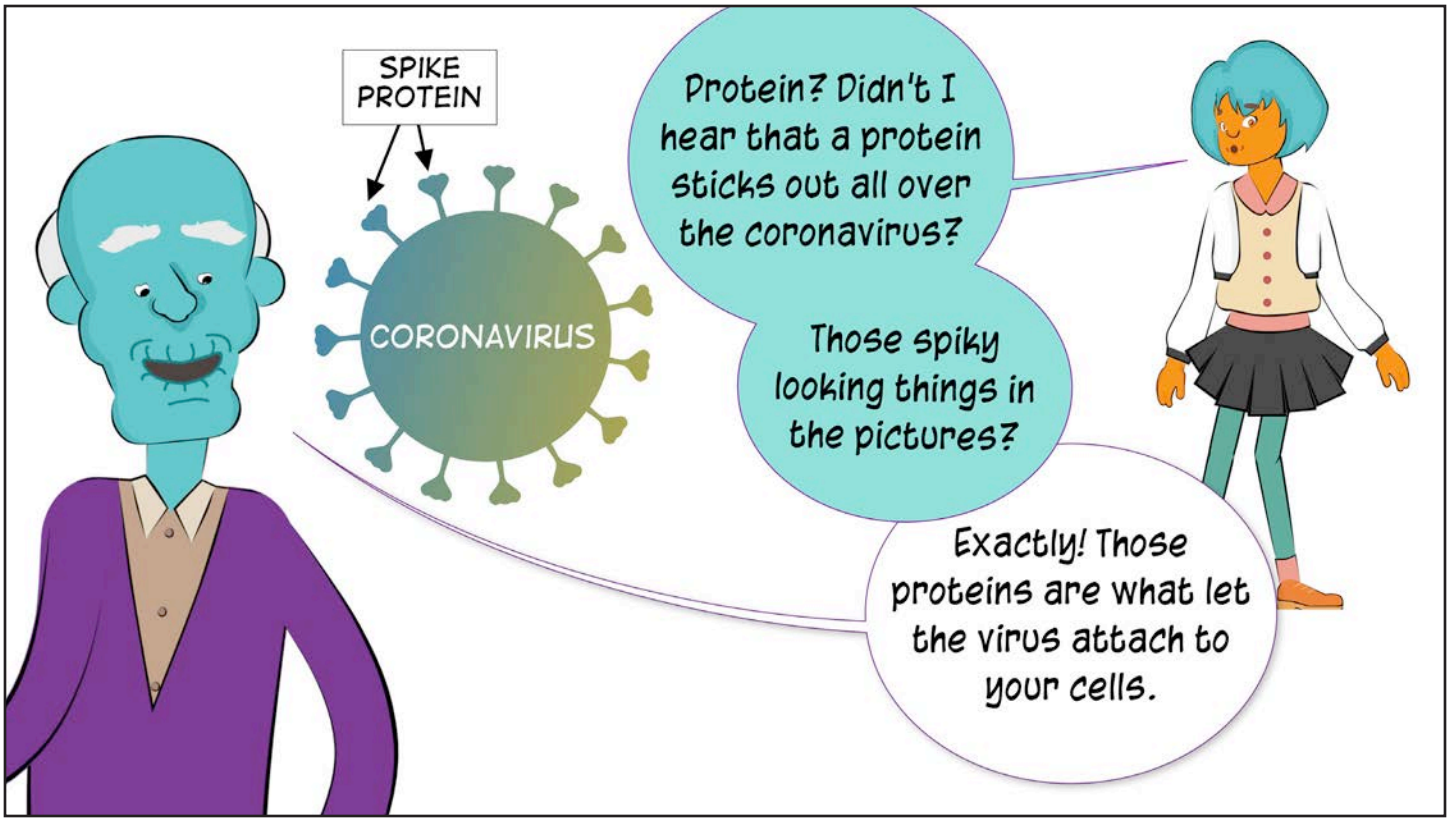
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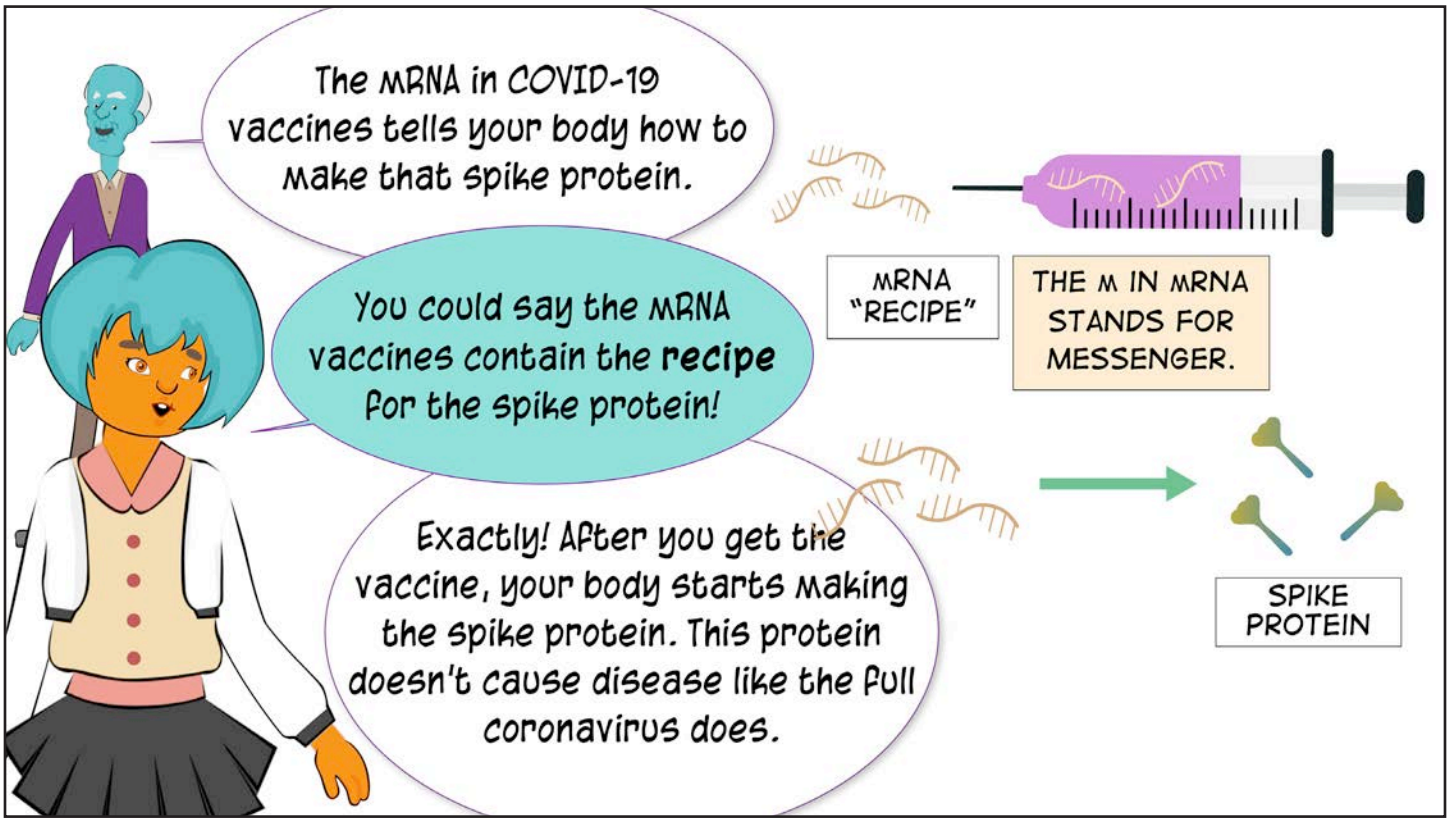
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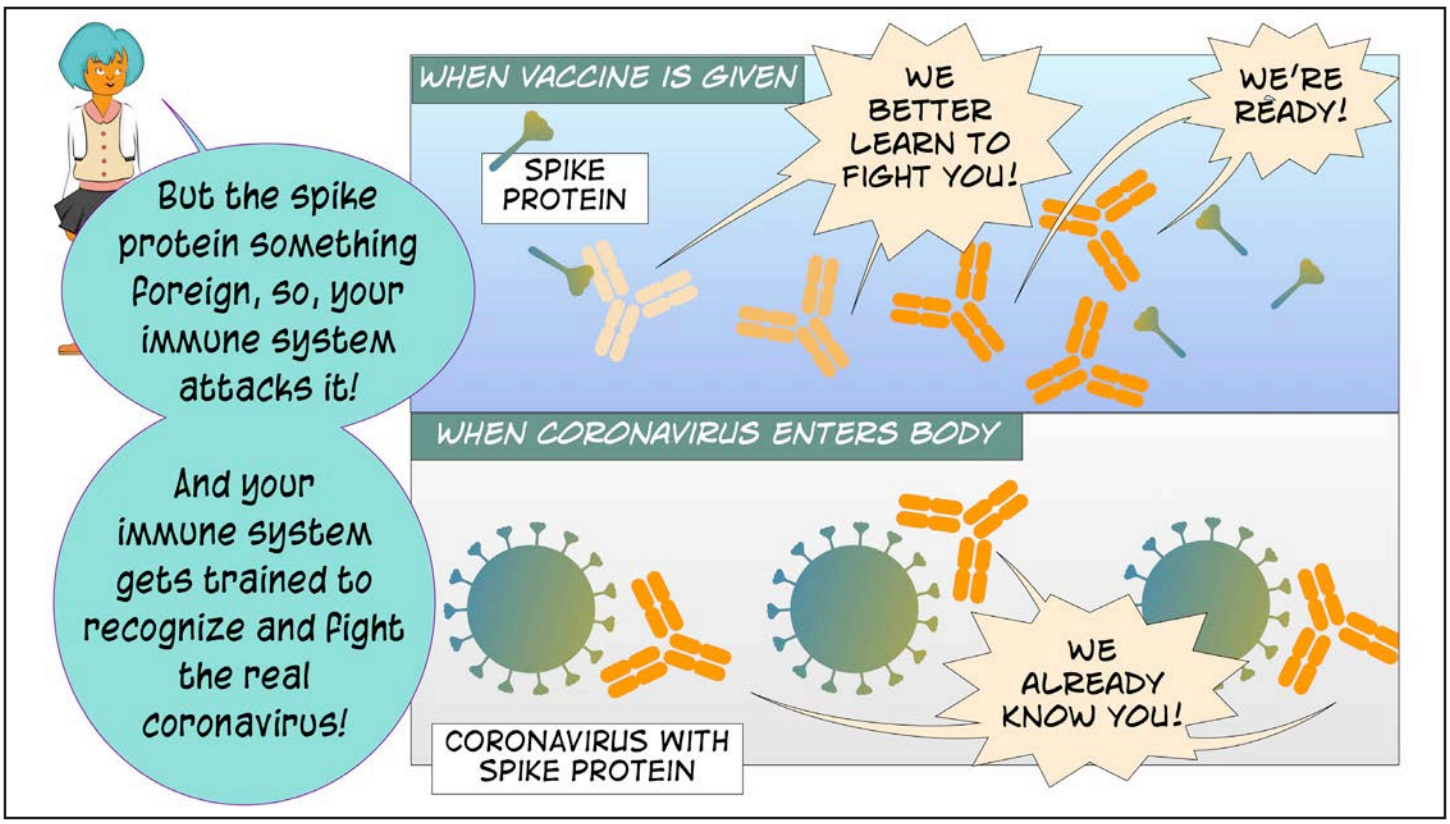
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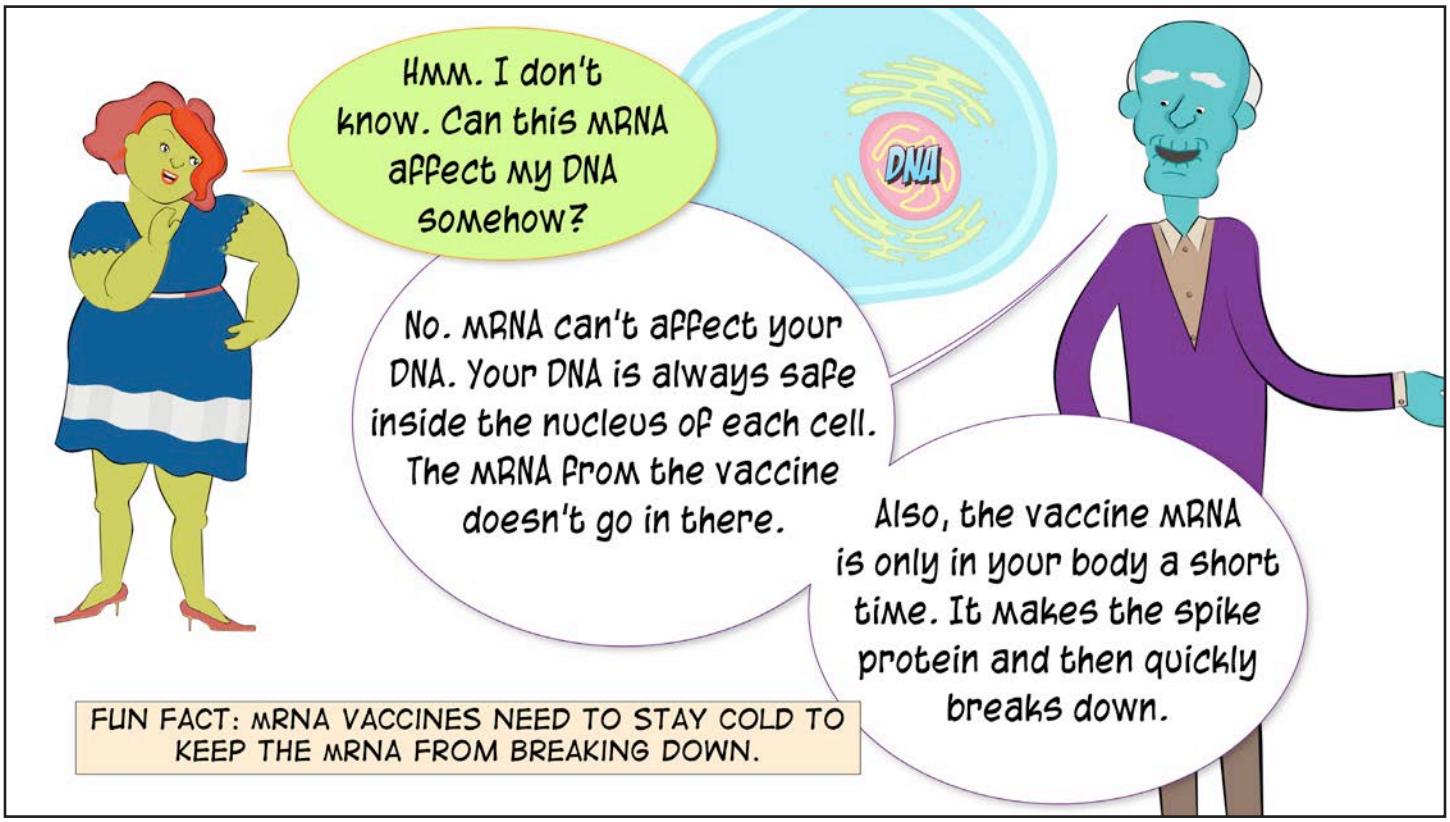
PANEL 13



PANEL 15



PANEL 14



PANEL 16

DR. COOKS EXPERT TIP:

DNA AND RNA ARE BOTH MOLECULES CALLED NUCLEIC ACIDS. MRNA IS A TYPE OF RNA INVOLVED IN MAKING PROTEINS.

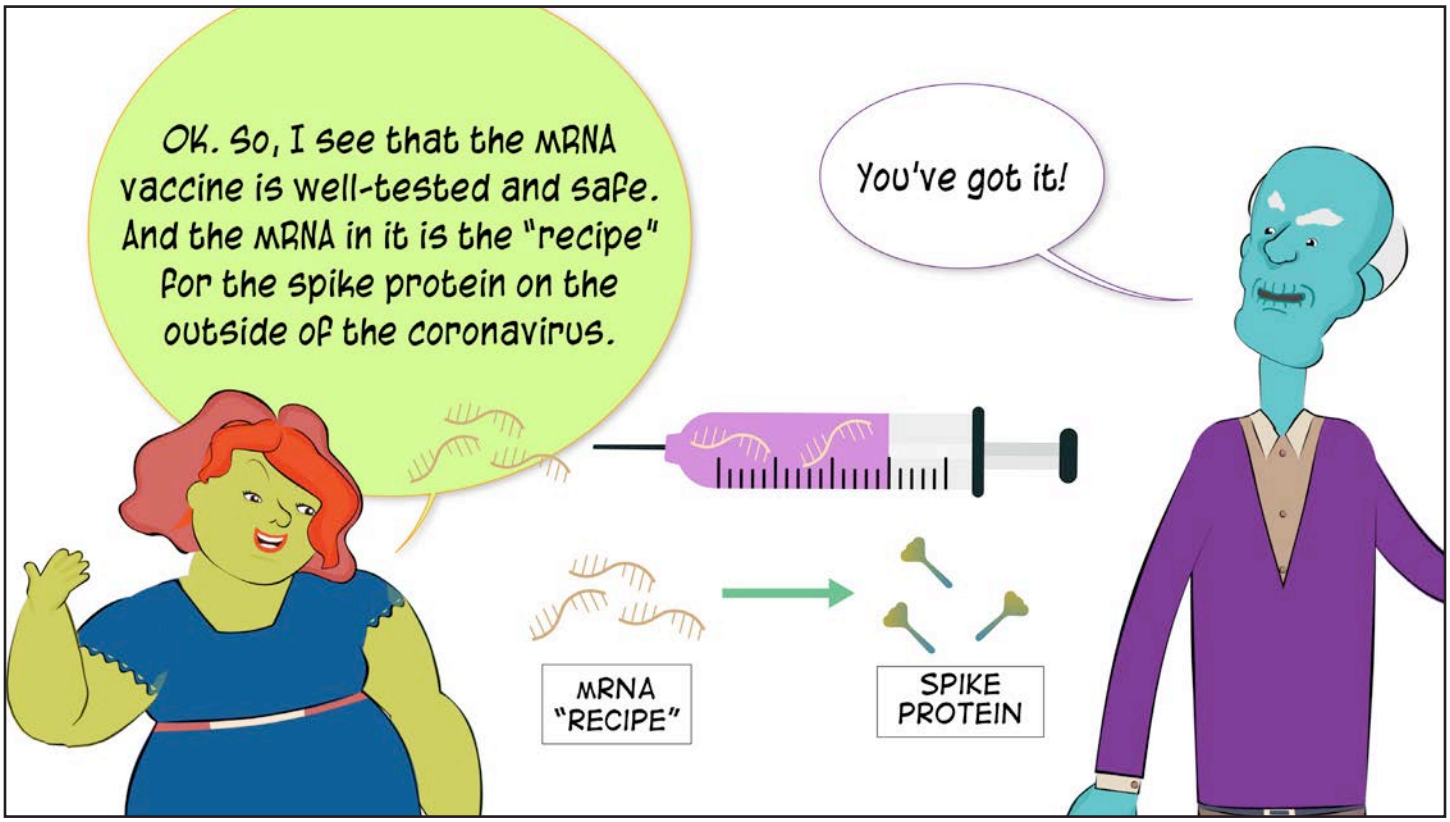
NUCLEIC ACIDS ARE LONG CHAINS OF NUCLEOTIDES.

NUCLEOTIDE + NUCLEOTIDE + NUCLEOTIDE + NUCLEOTIDE ... = NUCLEIC ACID

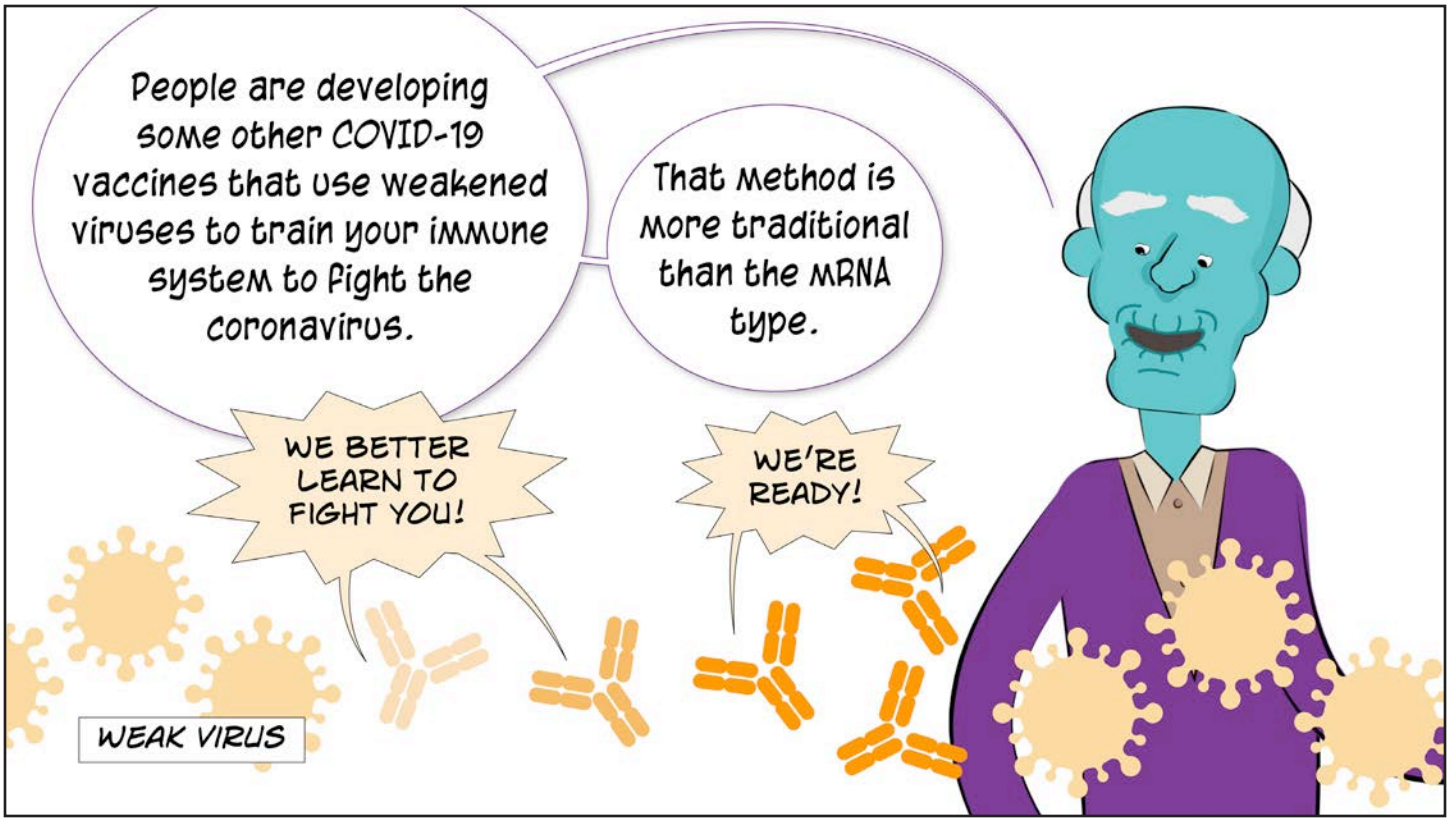
THE ORDER OF THE NUCLEOTIDES IN A GIVEN DNA OR RNA MOLECULE CODES FOR DIFFERENT PROTEINS, LIKE THE PROTEINS ON THE OUTSIDE OF VIRUSES.



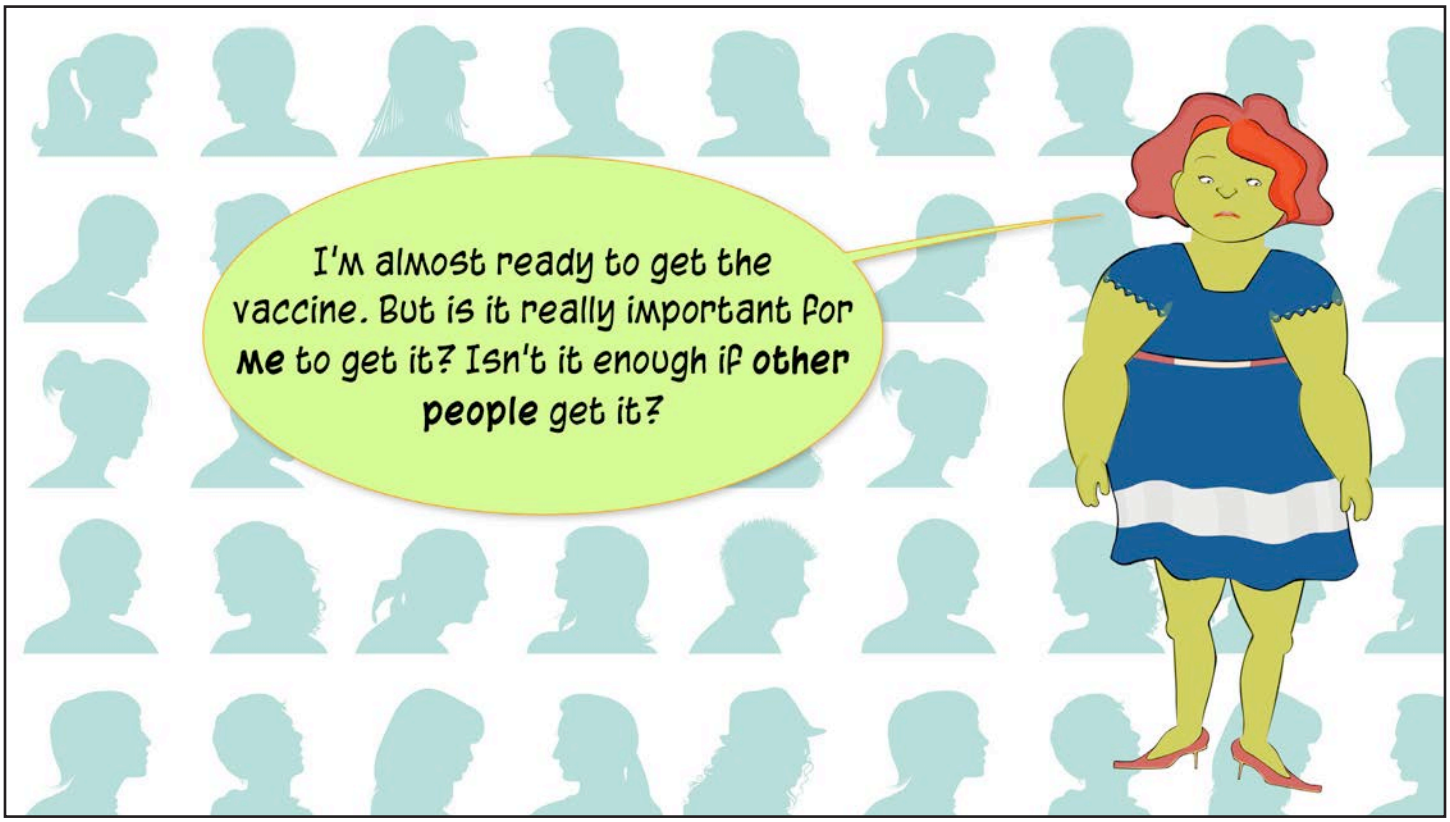
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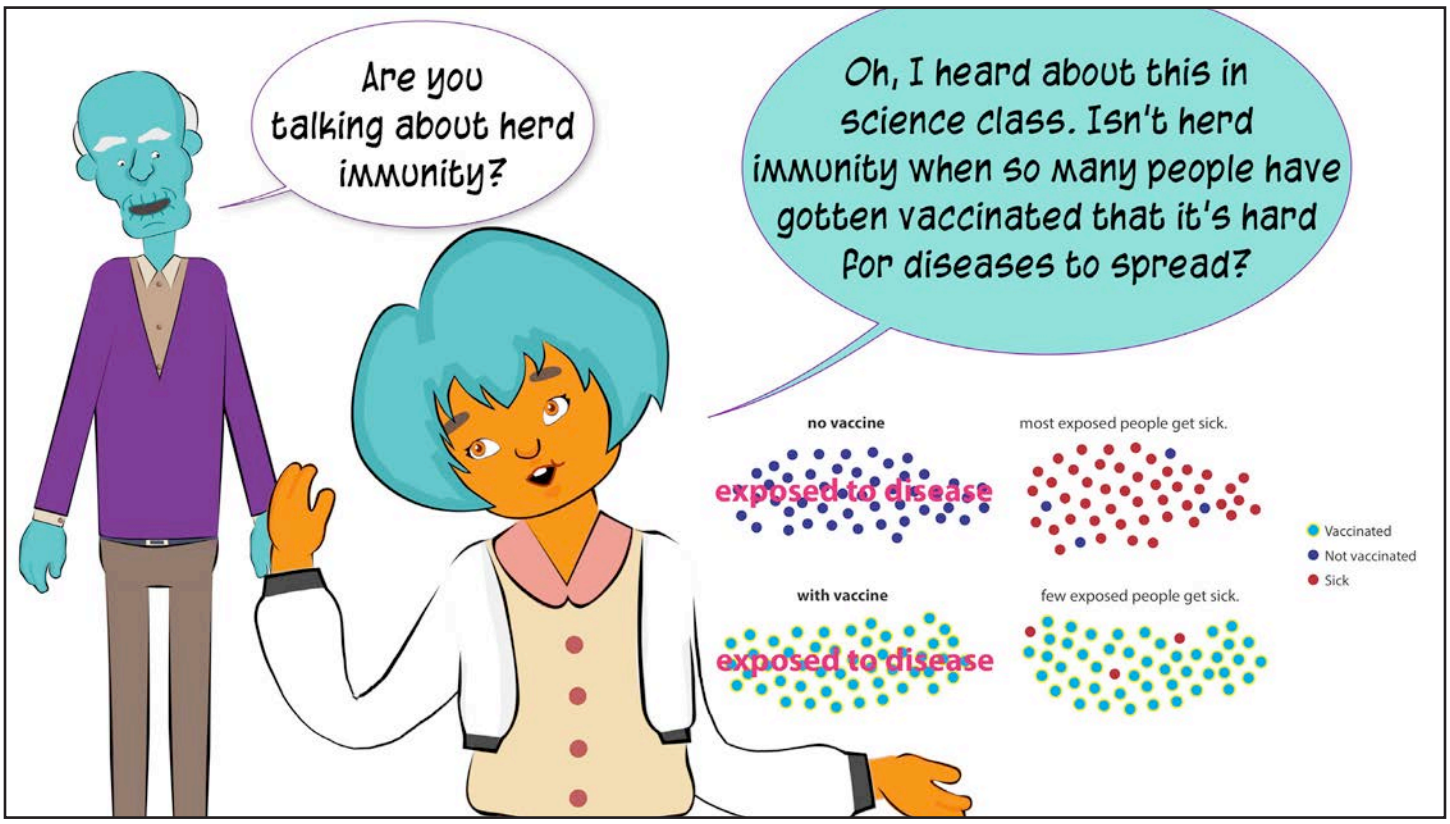
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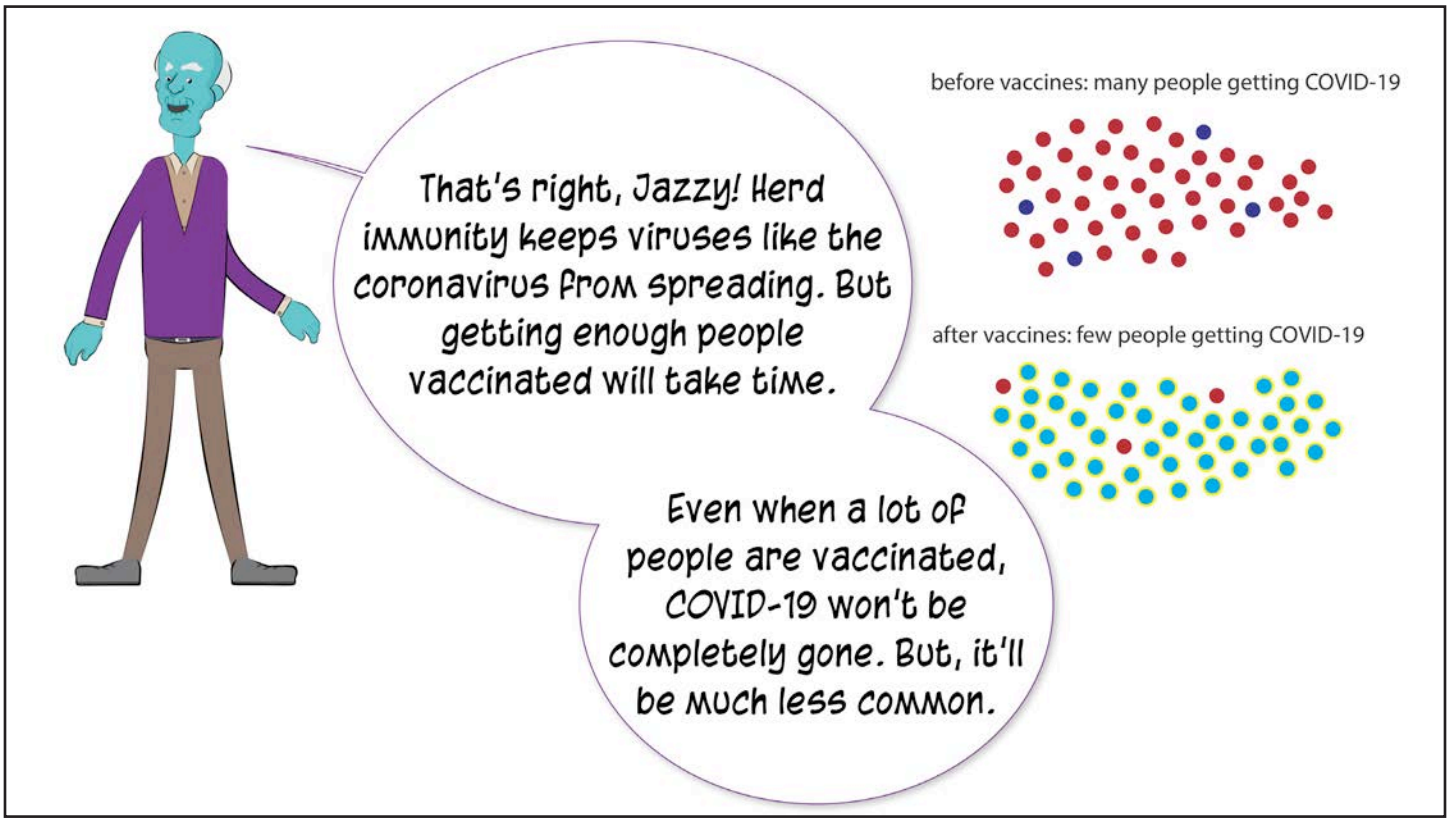
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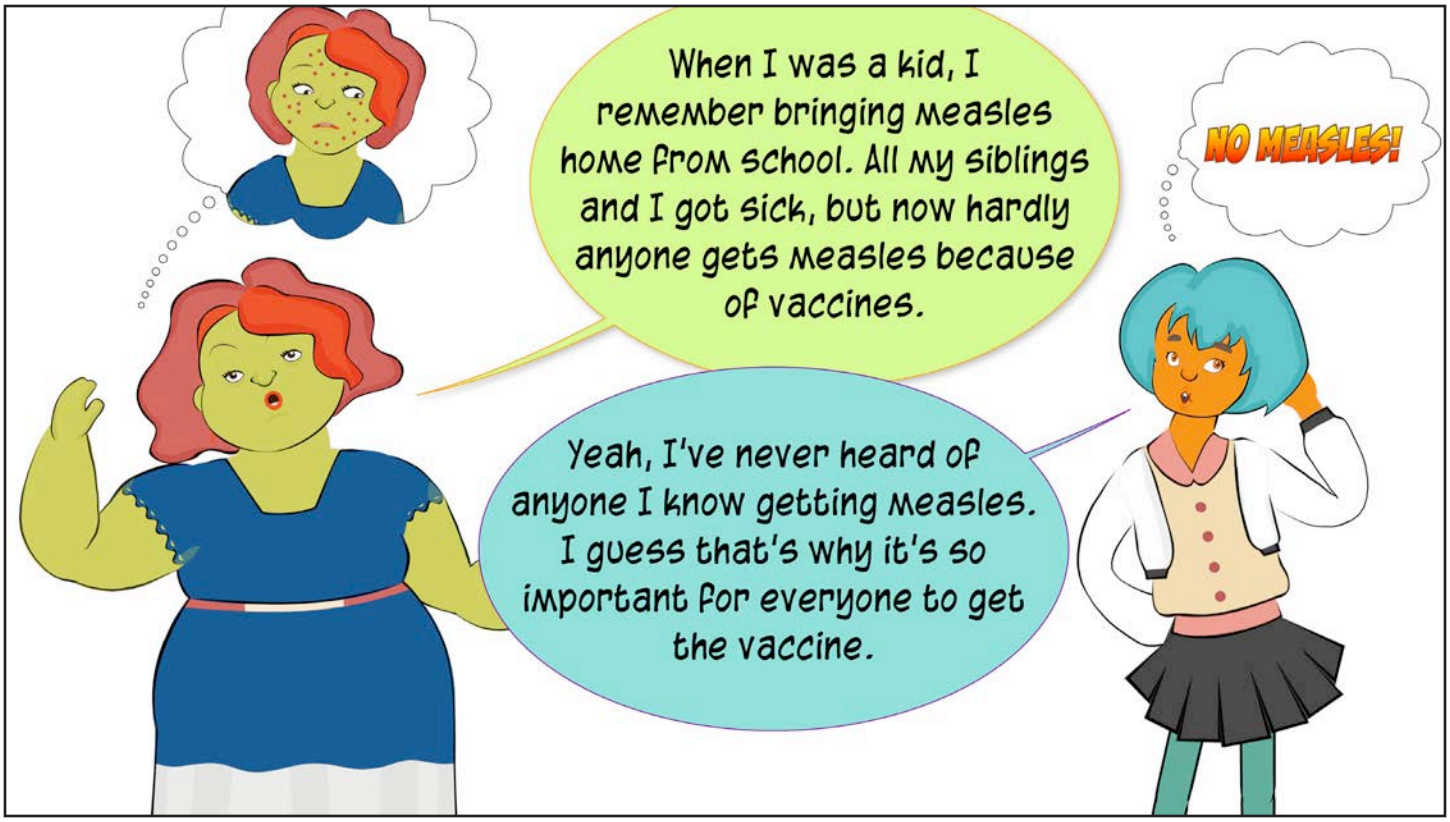
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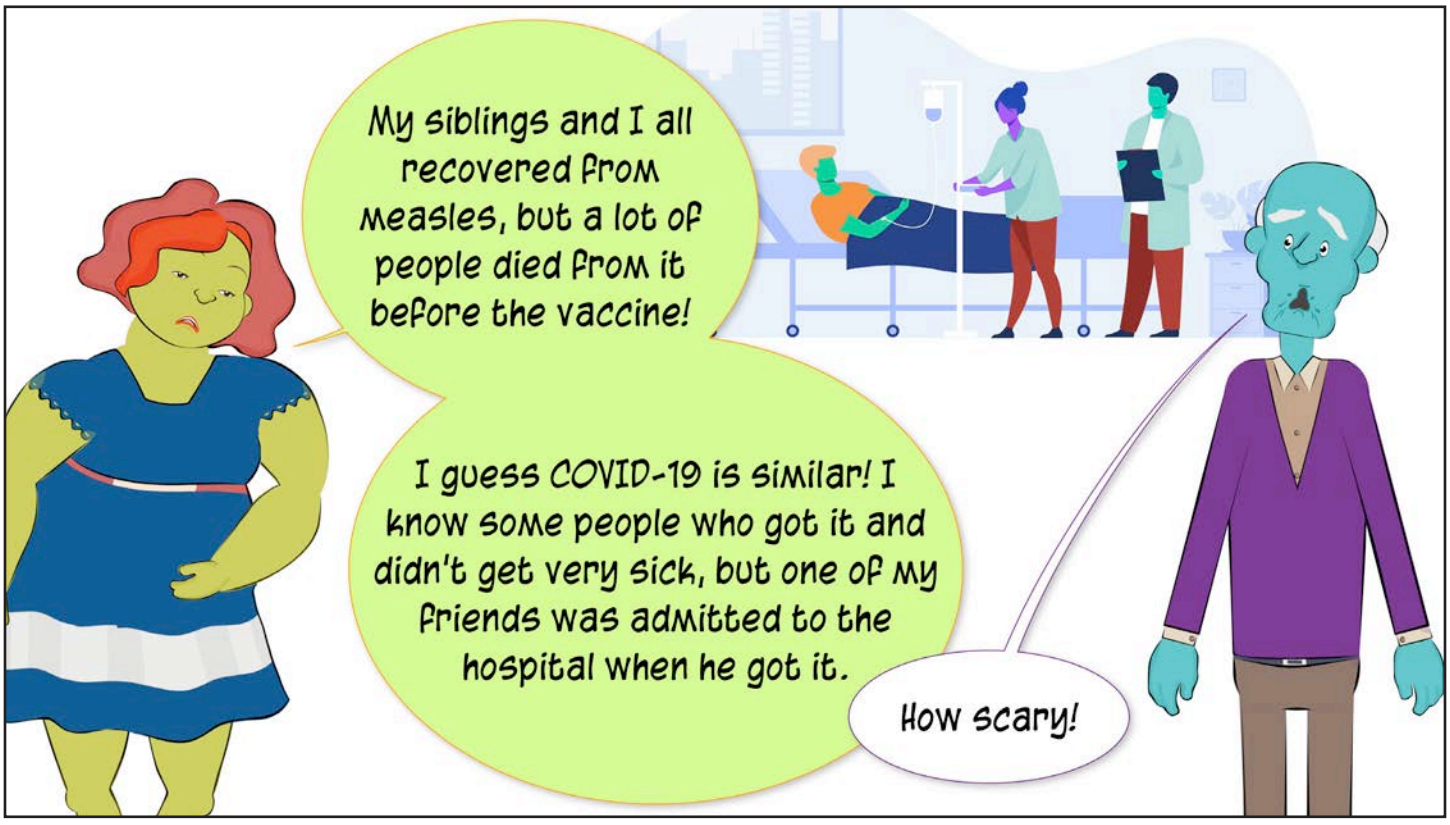
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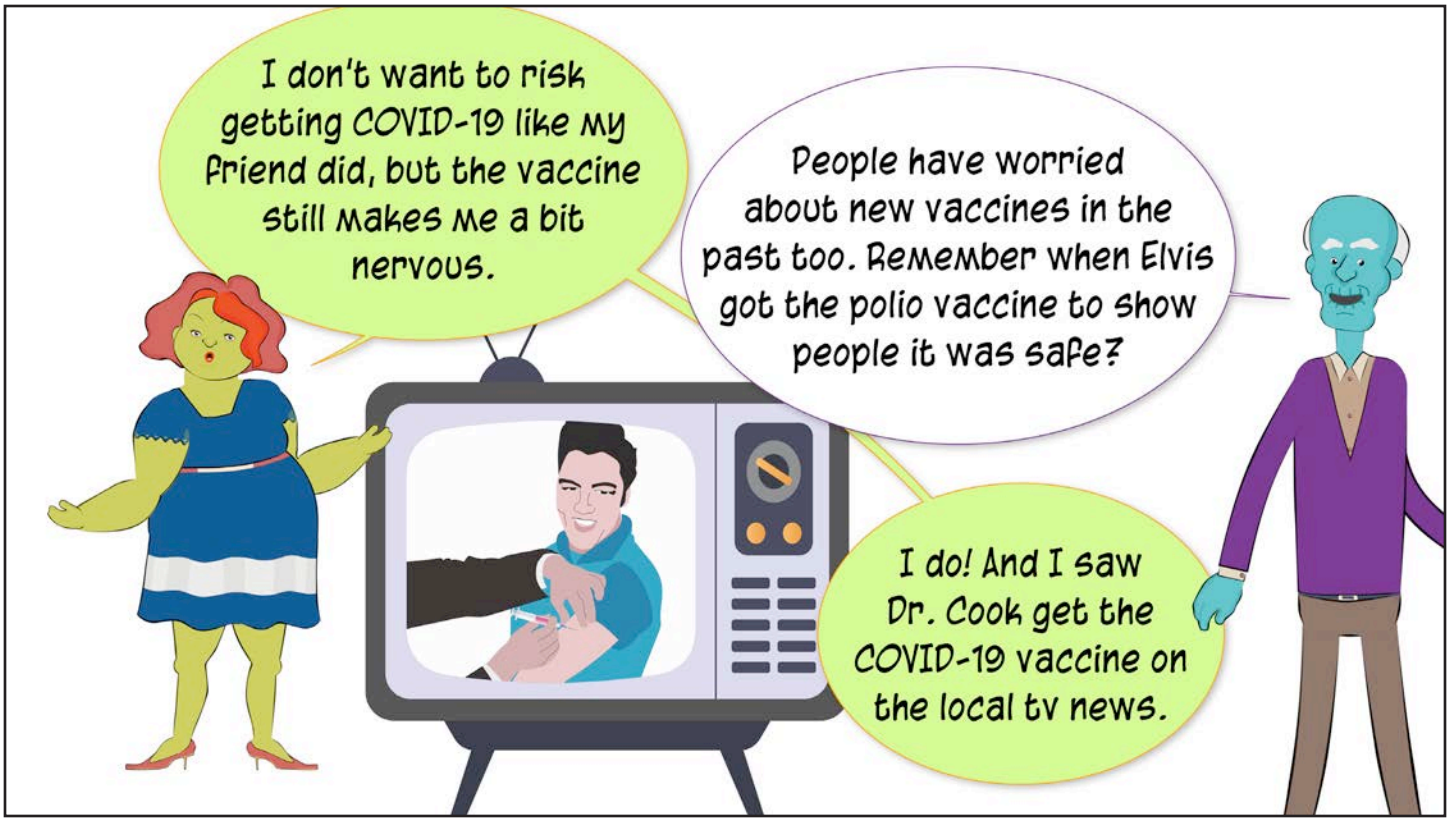
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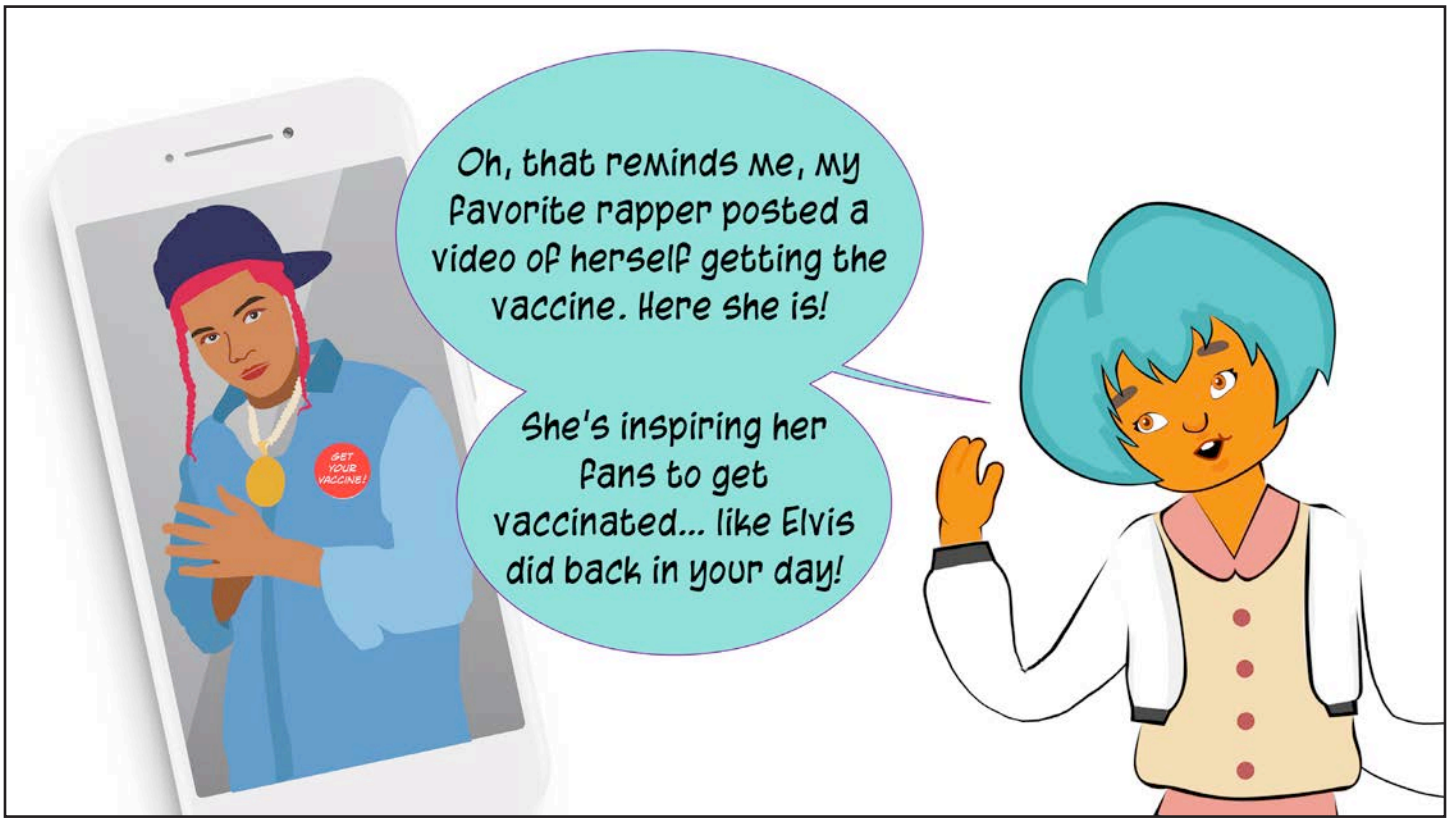
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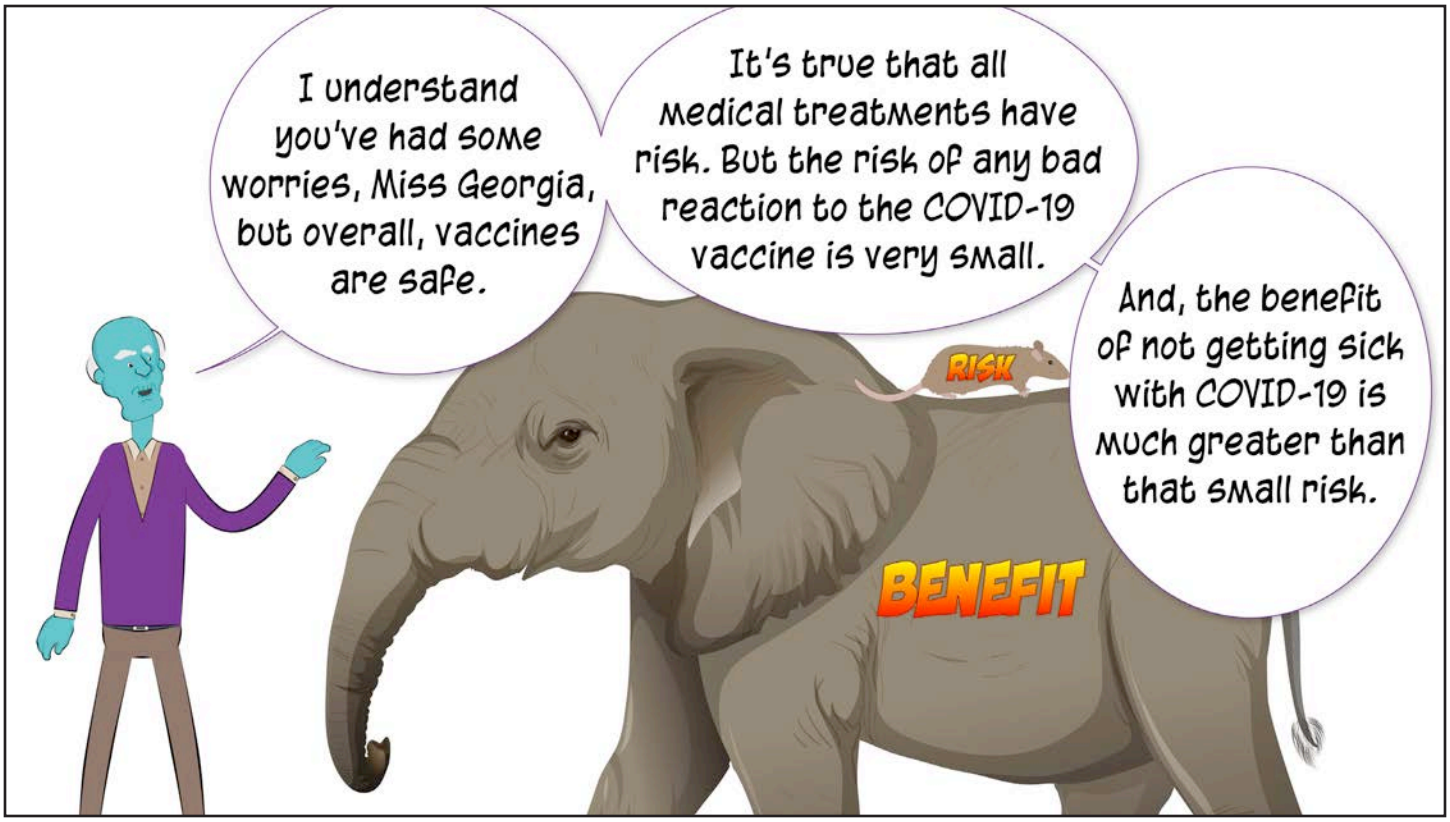
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PANEL 25



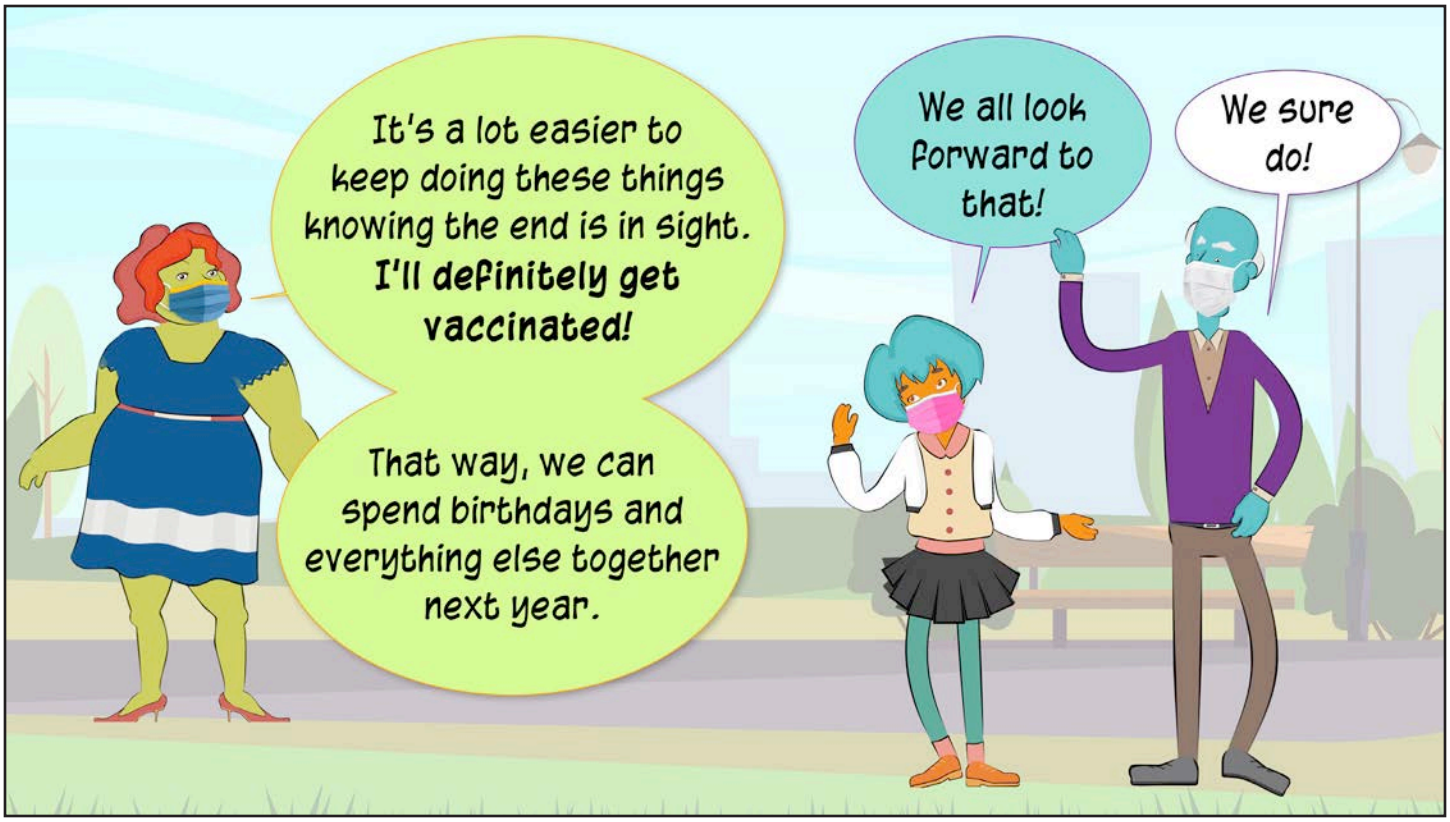
PANEL 26



PANEL 27



PANEL 28



PANEL 29

CHALLENGES TO HEALTH

1 FOR LIFE TO GET BACK TO NORMAL, WE NEED THE PROTECTION FROM COVID-19 THAT A VACCINE OFFERS.

2 SOME PEOPLE ARE SCARED TO GET COVID-19 VACCINES. THEY WORRY THAT THE VACCINES WERE MADE TOO QUICKLY OR THAT MRNA VACCINES ARE NOT SAFE.

3 SOME PEOPLE THINK IT'S GOOD ENOUGH IF OTHER PEOPLE GET THE VACCINE AND THEY DON'T. BUT FOR THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE TO BE PROTECTED, ALMOST EVERYONE NEEDS TO HAVE A COVID-19 VACCINE.

PANEL 30

HEALTHY ACTIONS

1 THE COVID-19 VACCINES WORK AND ARE SAFE. GETTING THE VACCINE AS SOON AS IT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU PROTECTS YOU AND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

2 CONTINUING TO WEAR MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCE UNTIL ALMOST EVERYONE HAS A VACCINE WILL SLOW DOWN THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS.

3 HELP YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM PROTECT YOU FROM DISEASE. SLEEPING ENOUGH, EATING COLORFUL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AND EXERCISING BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM.

PANEL 31

WE engage 4 health

SEVEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES
Building Strong Communities One Family at a Time

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD
SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

THIS WE ENGAGE 4 HEALTH (WE4H) STORY WAS DEVELOPED AS A COLLABORATION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD IN CINCINNATI, OHIO AND WE4H PROGRAM STAFF.

WE ENGAGE 4 HEALTH IS SUPPORTED BY THE SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD (SEPA) PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES (NIGMS) AWARD NUMBER R25GM129808. CONTENTS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THE NIH.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT **WE ENGAGE 4 HEALTH**, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WE4H.LIFE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEPA PROGRAM, VISIT NIHSEPA.ORG.*

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PANEL 32



Did you enjoy this story? Want to read more about the coronavirus and how vaccines work?

Visit our **Coronavirus Learning Companion** for stories and hands-on activities!

Coronavirus Learning Companion

www.we4h.life/CLC

Stories for learning more about the coronavirus, COVID-19, and vaccines:



Coping with COVID-19

Teenage asthma patient, Jazzy, has a telemedicine visit with Dr. Breeze. Jazzy asks about coronavirus, COVID-19, and her risks as an asthma patient. Dr. Breeze gives Jazzy information in an easy to understand way.



Vaccine Victory

Pops, Vito, and Big Sam enjoy a socially distanced community picnic while learning about how vaccines create immunity to diseases.



Making the Most of Masks

Jazzy's tired of wearings masks, but her mom encourages her to keep it up and adds some fun with cute new masks for her. Jazzy forgets to wash her new masks after wearing at school for a week, so she and mom wash them together.

Stories for discovering hands-on activities:

Soap Surprises

Jazzy and her mom discover why washing with soap and water is the number one way to get rid of coronavirus —and any other germs — on your hands.

Foamy Soap Fun

Jazzy and her mom continue exploring the properties of soap