







# Acknowledgments

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## **Foreword**

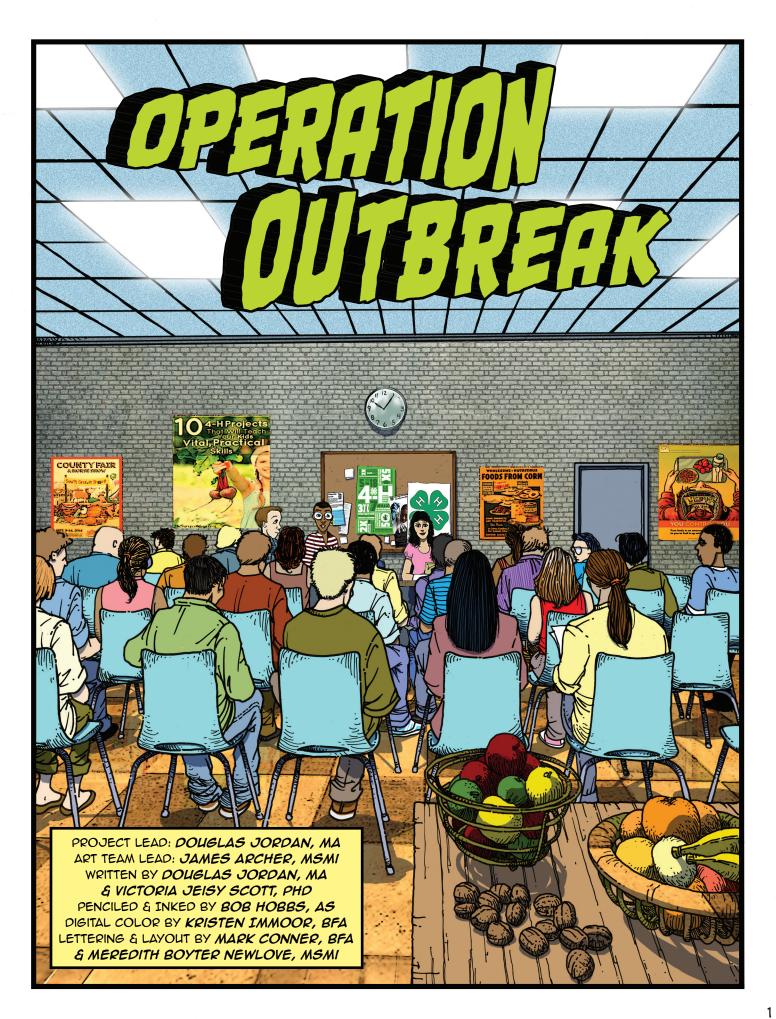
The following story is a work of fiction, but real public health threats and diseases are presented. CDC hopes that this story raises youth awareness of infectious diseases and the public health risks they pose. In addition, CDC hopes that this story helps to encourage youth interest in the many different career paths available in public health at the local, state and federal levels. Lastly, CDC hopes that this story promotes youth education and interest in science and public health. We at CDC hope that readers are inspired to become the next generation of real life disease detectives and public health superheroes.

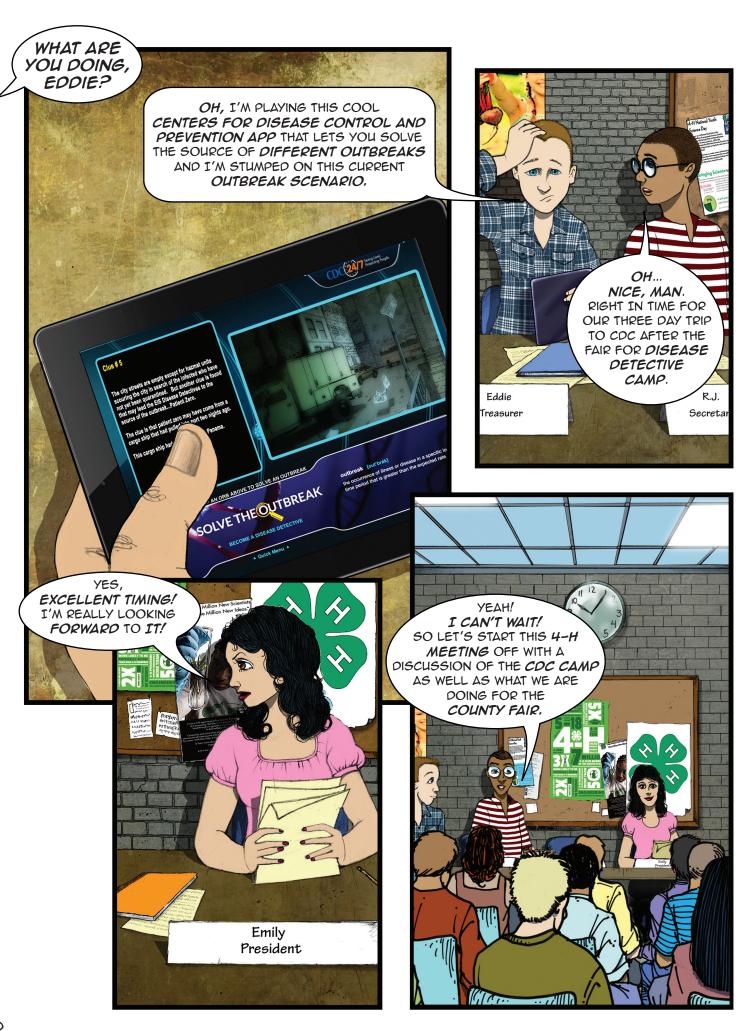
This graphic novel is the result of a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 4-H, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). 4-H is the nation's largest youth development program.

4-H is a public-private partnership with federal, state, local and non-profit support. Youth and their families access 4-H programs at a community or county level through the cooperative extension division of their land-grant university.

4-H offers a youth development experience for all youth ages 5–19. For more information, please see https://nifa/usda/gov/program/4-h-positive-youth-development.







I HAVE AN IDEA TO MAKE THINGS INTERESTING! LET'S EACH IMAGINE THAT WE ARE FACING A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT AND WE ARE THE HEROES. EDDIE, LET'S START WITH YOU! HMM... OK. WELL, I'M PICTURING AN OUTBREAK OF A NEW SCARY DISEASE THAT HAS ALREADY INFECTED HALF OF THE CITY'S POPULATION!







...ANO I'M

GERM SLAYER.

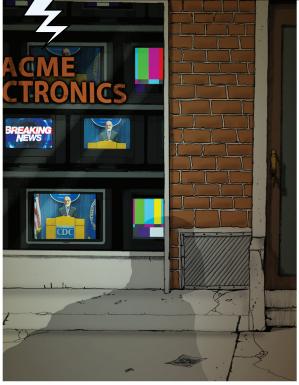
THE GERM-FIGHTING

SUPERHERO WHO

HAS THE CURE!



Hospitals and clinics are currently overwhelmed and in some cases people are actually being turned away...













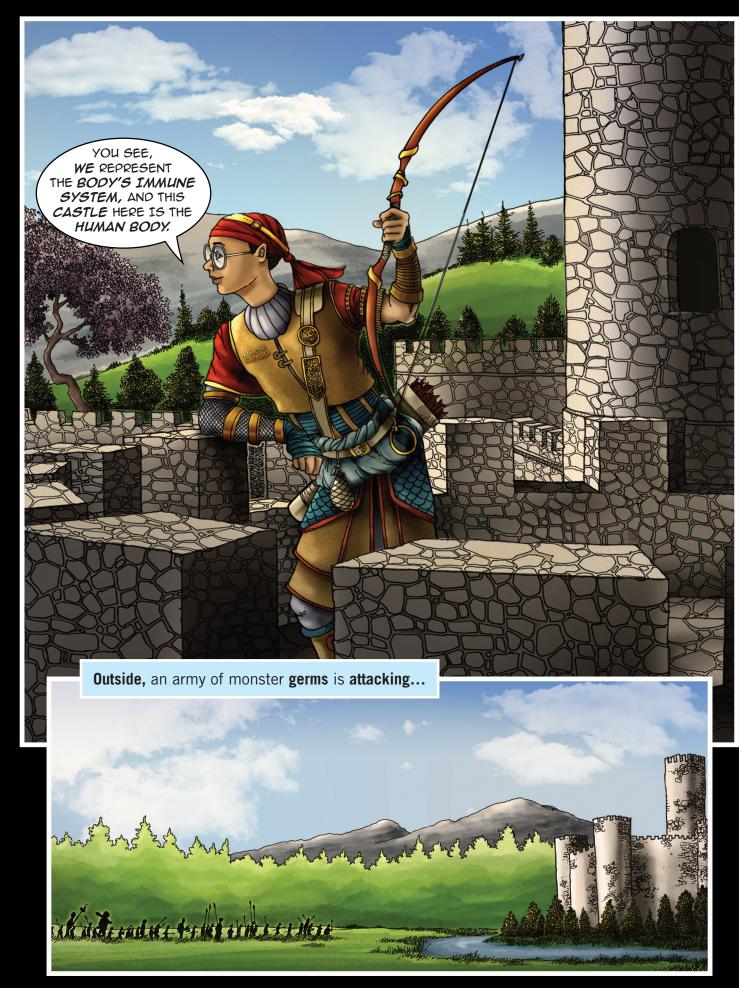




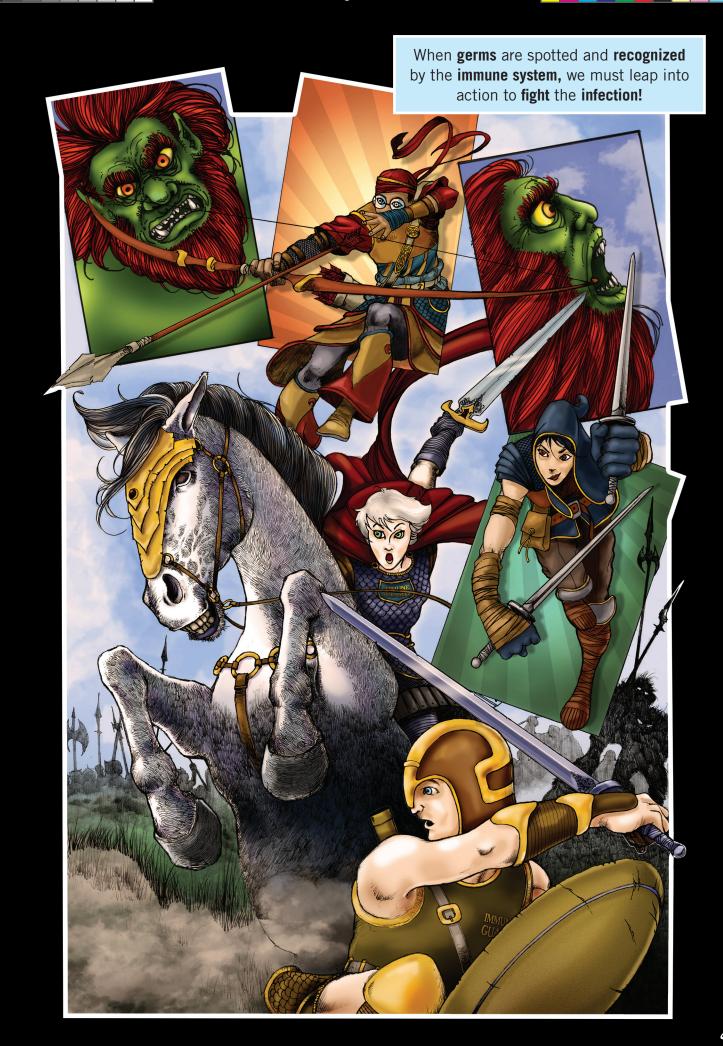
AND YOU GUYS ARE THERE WITH ME!







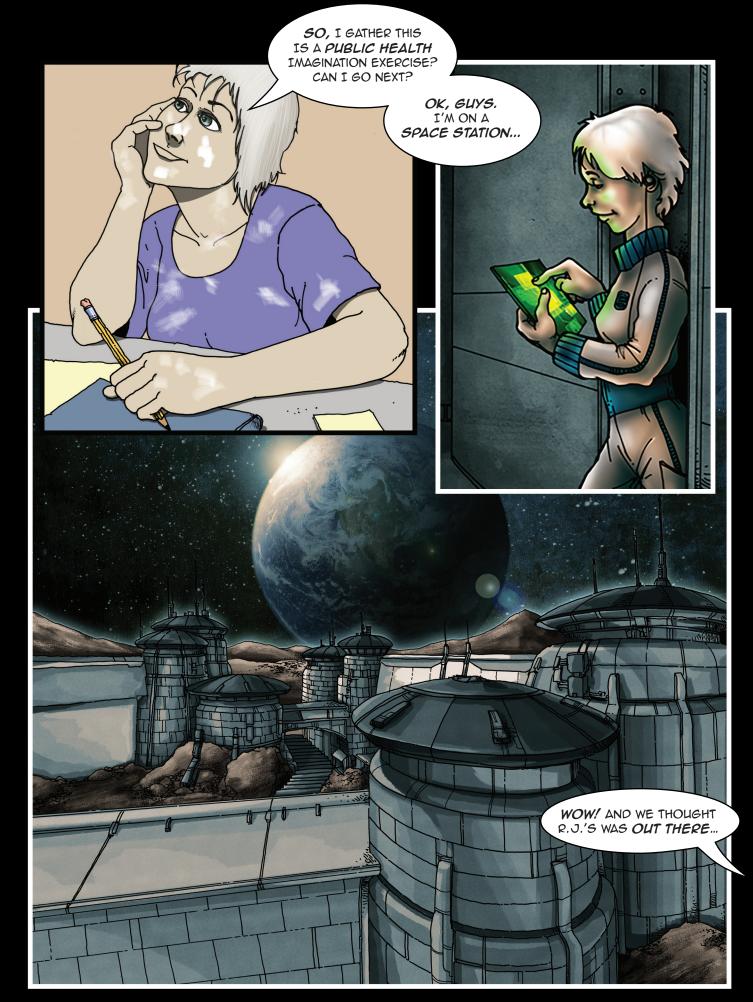










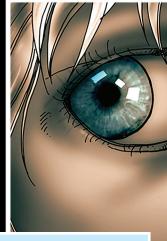


"The space station is full of people infected with an alien virus, but I am completely unaware."









"I am just going about my business. Little do I know that the space station is contaminated with the virus. Just by being in the environment, I'm being exposed to the virus!"

"The **virus** can enter a person's eyes, nose or mouth to cause **infection."** 

"If you are in a contaminated environment and don't take the proper precautions, you can get sick, too."

"Oh no!
The virus
has gotten
to me.
It's trying
to infect
me!"

w that sause sinated. causing stem d fight

"However, I know that
I'll be safe because
I have been vaccinated.
Vaccines work by causing
your immune system
to recognize and fight
against the attacking virus."



"There has been an **outbreak** of **foodborne illness**. I have been doing some studying prior to **CDC camp**, so I know that foodborne illness is caused by consuming **contaminated** food or beverages and sometimes it can be spread from person to person."





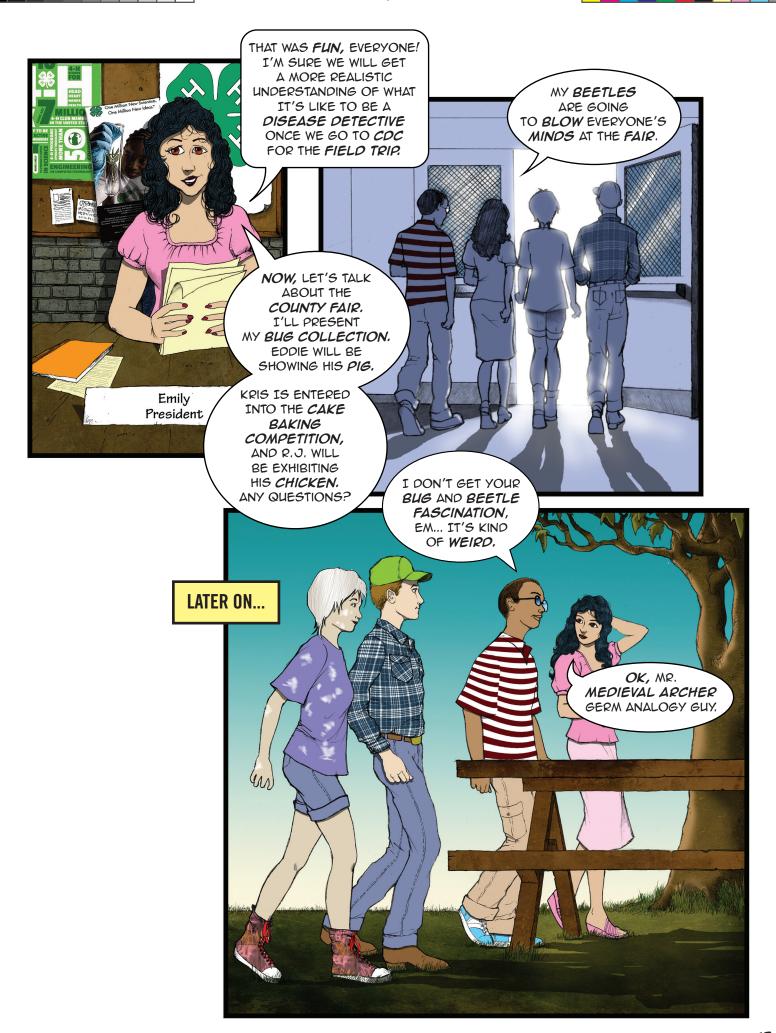
"Back at the laboratory, I test the sample to see if I can determine the cause of the outbreak... it's positive for salmonella!"



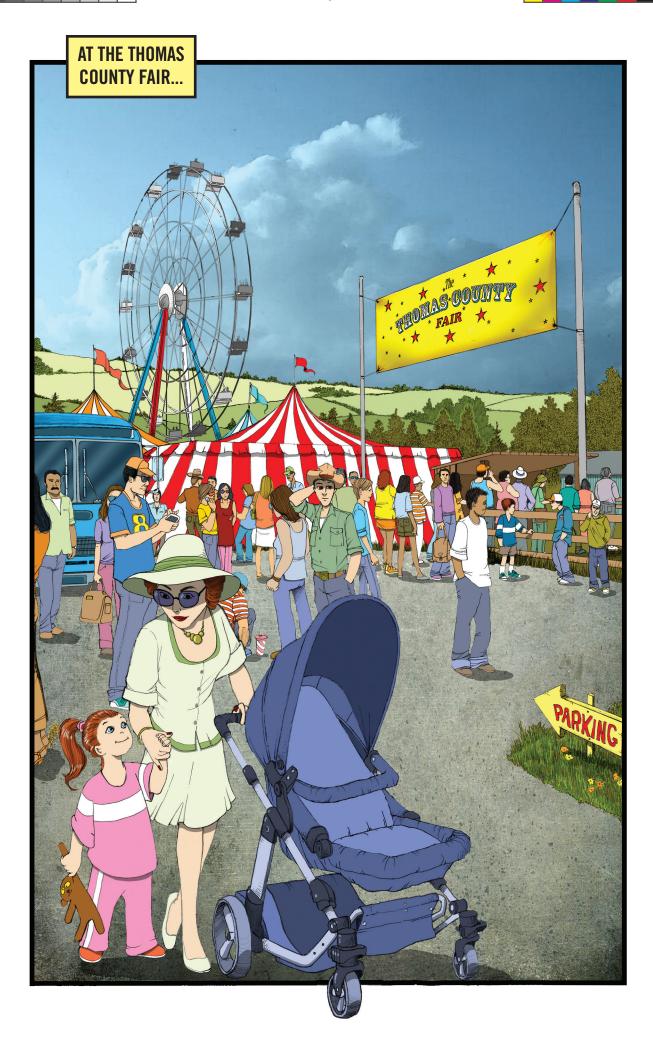


"Now I need to **reach out** and see who else may have **eaten** at this **restaurant**, and I need to **protect** people who could be at **risk**."





























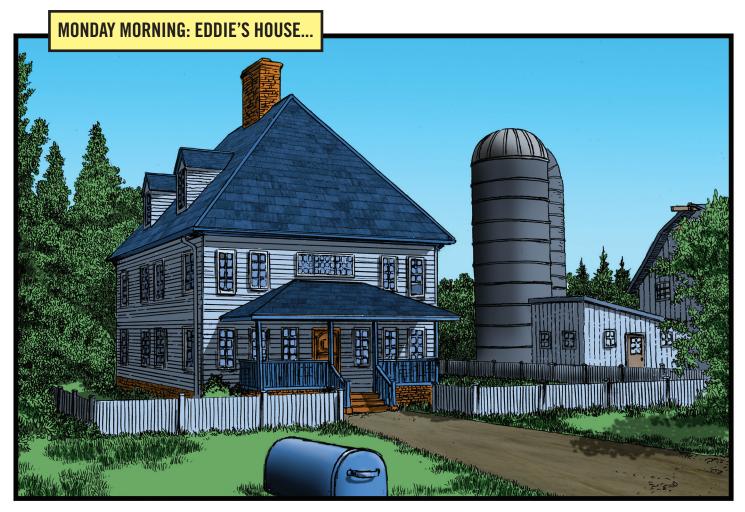






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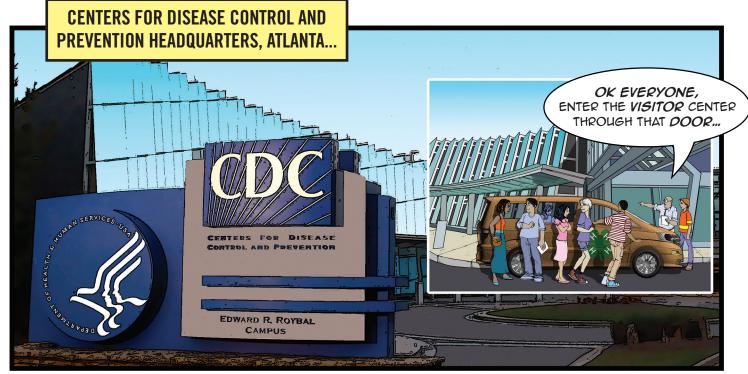






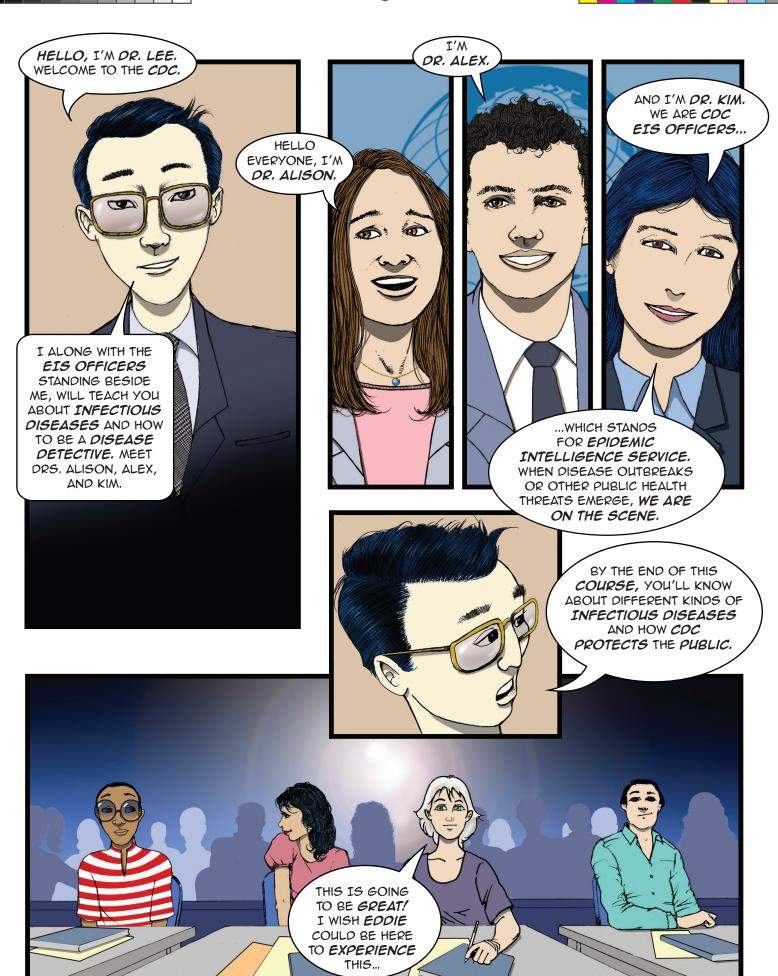


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# WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

NEXT, I'D LIKE
TO TELL YOU HOW
WE AT COC FIGHT
DISEASE.

CDC FOCUSES ON
PUBLIC HEALTH,
PROTECTING THE HEALTH
AND SAFETY OF GROUPS

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS**

- Community Health
- Focus on Preventing Diseases
- Investigate Diseases in Groups of People

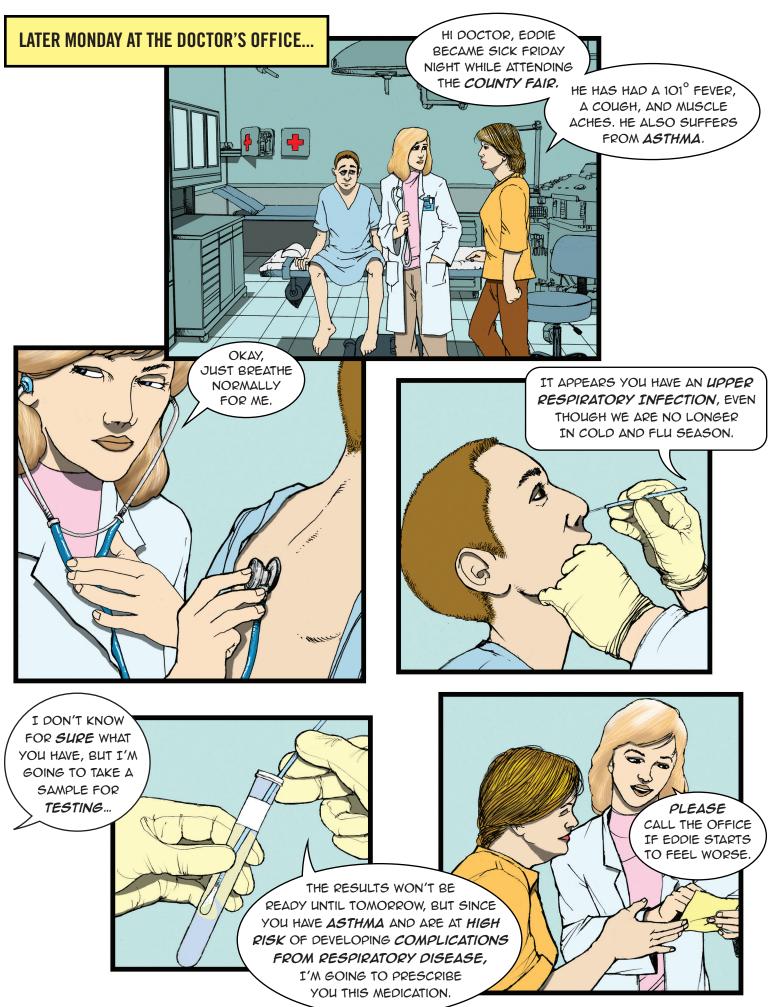
#### **CLINICIANS**

- Individual Health
- Focus on Treating Diseases
- Diagnose and Treat Disease in One Patient



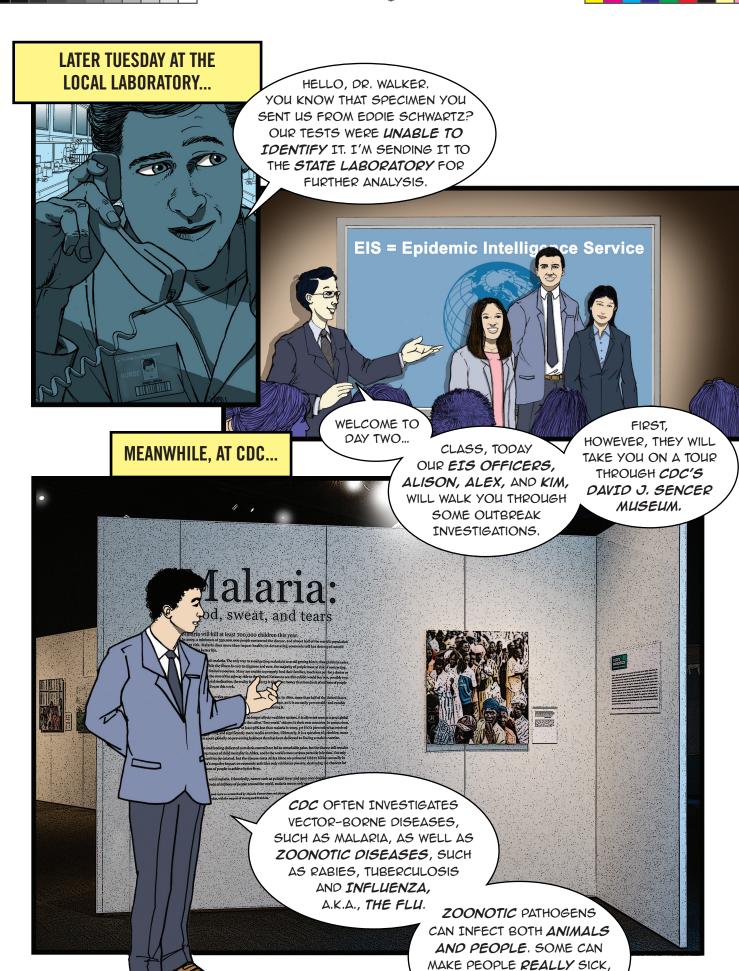






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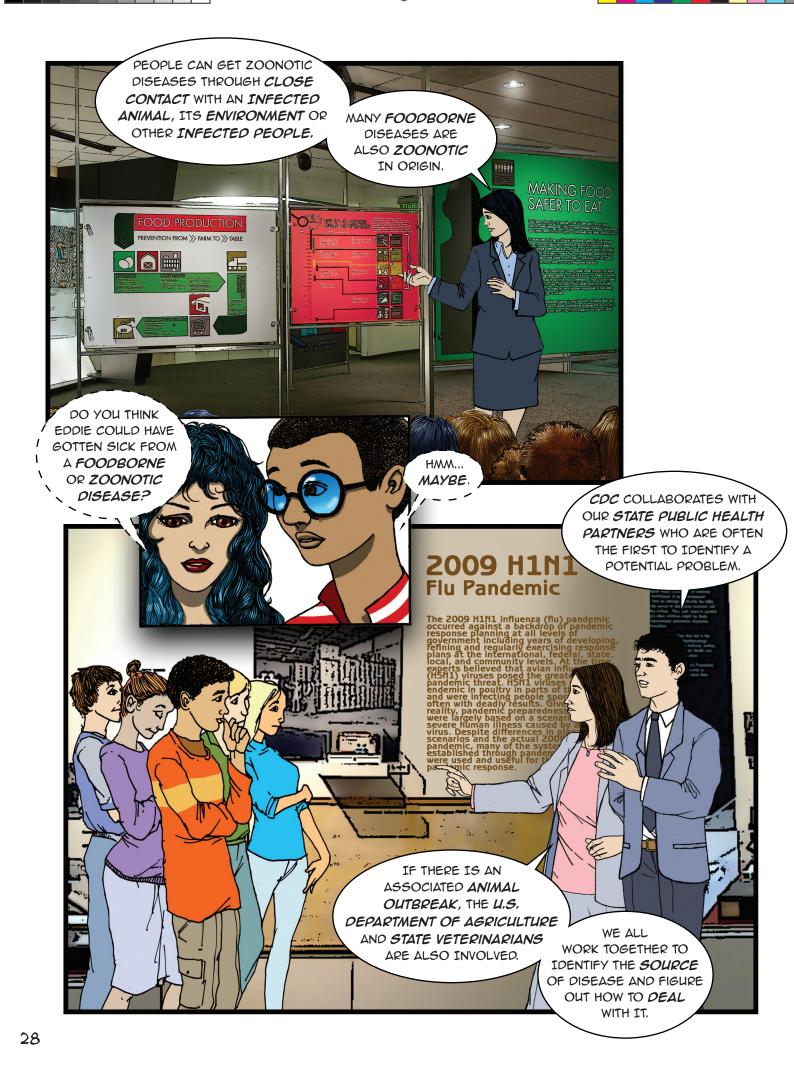
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EVEN IF INFECTED ANIMALS

DON'T LOOK SICK.









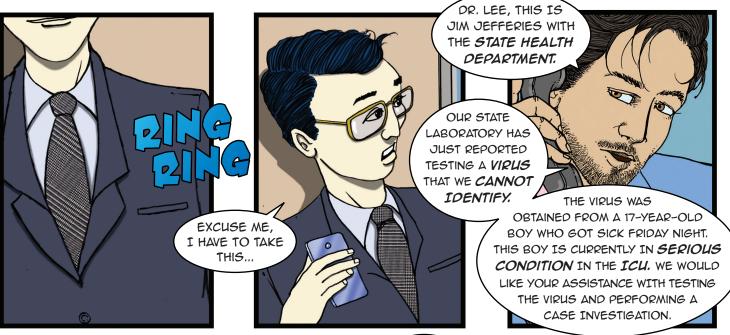
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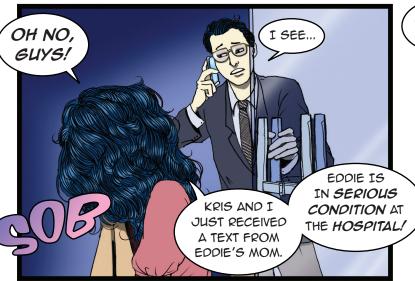




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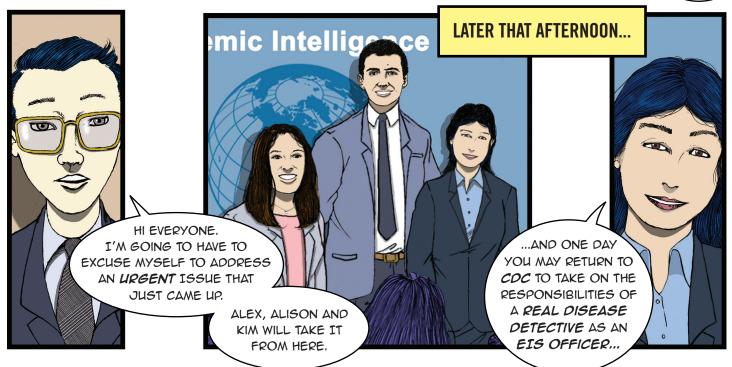


HEY, WHERE'S KRIS?

YOU KNOW HOW SHE AND EDDIE ARE DATING?

SHE
FELT LIKE
SHE COULON'T
SIT BY WHILE
EDDIE IS
SO SICK.

I HOPE HE'S GOING TO BE OK.















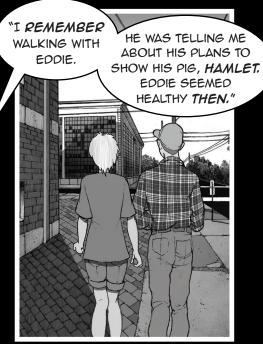












## AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM...



"I remember we all had **eaten together** at the snack bar. I had a soda, and you and Eddie got ice cream."



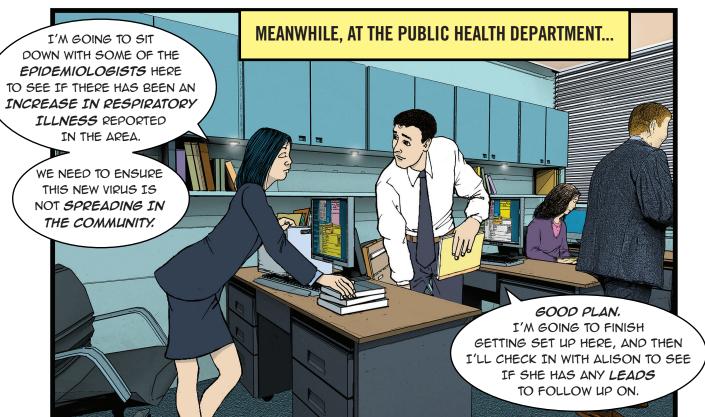
"Well, I think we can rule out ice cream because I had it too and didn't get sick."







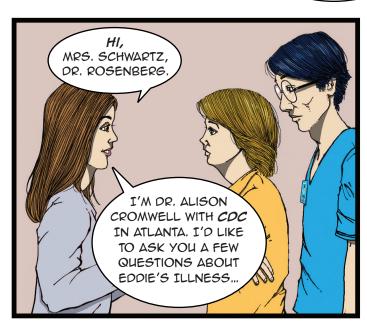






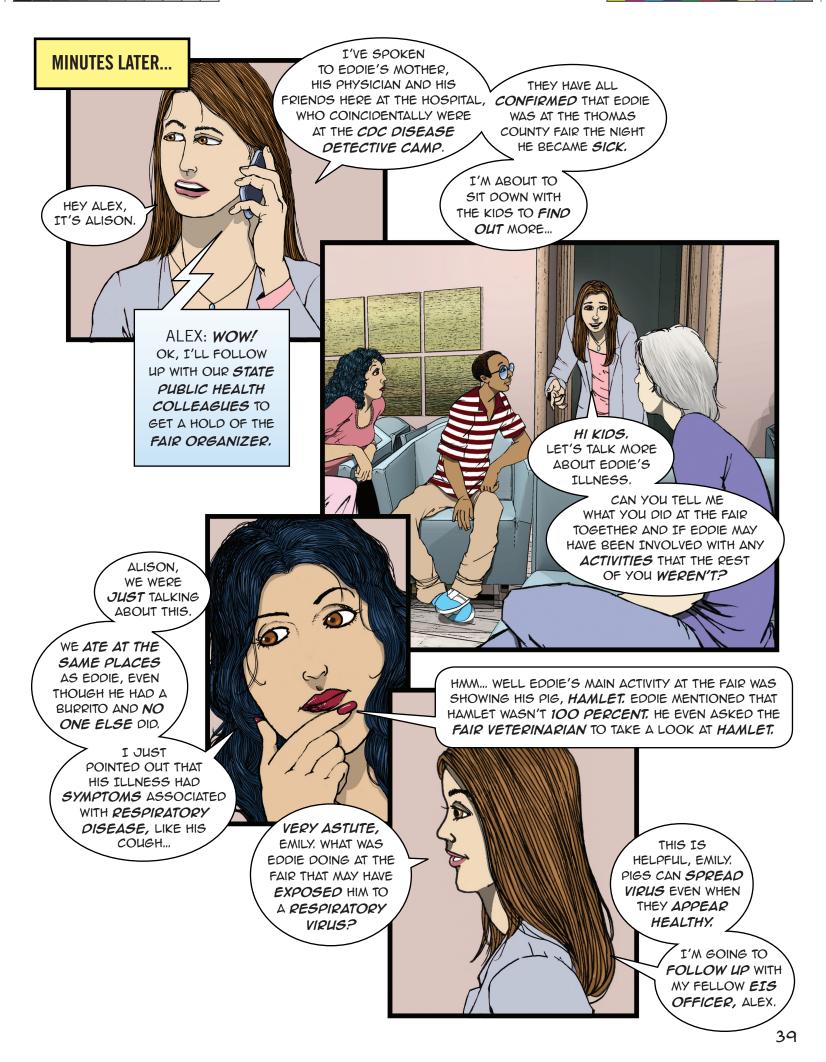






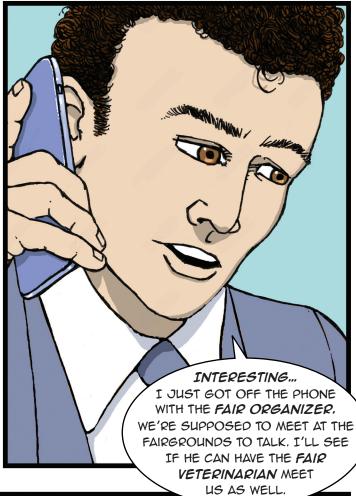












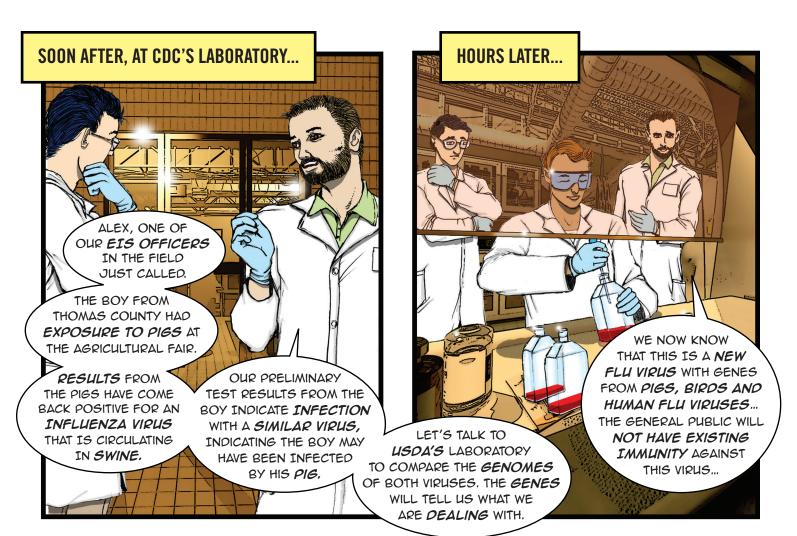


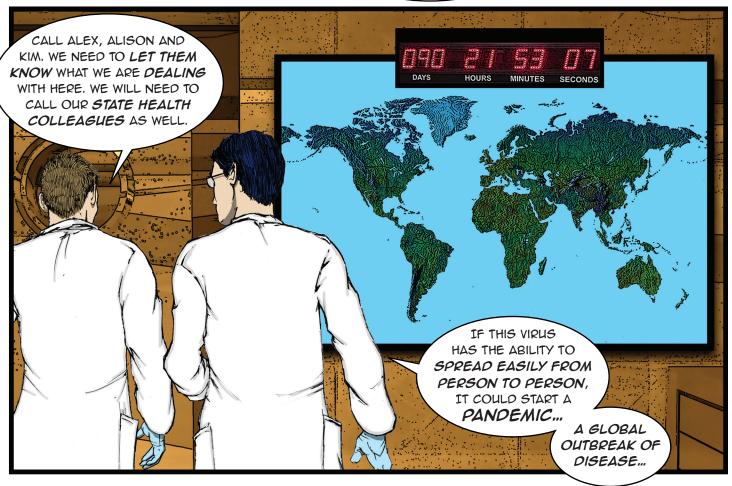
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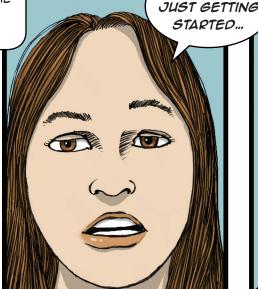


I JUST HEARD BACK FROM HEADQUARTERS. CDC'S LABORATORY
IN ATLANTA AND USDA'S LABORATORY HAVE OBTAINED PRELIMINARY
TEST RESULTS THAT INDICATE A POSSIBLE MATCH BETWEEN EDDIE'S
VIRUS AND THE VIRUS OBTAINED FROM HIS PIG. THEY ARE SAYING
THIS VIRUS HAS PANDEMIC POTENTIAL...

FOR A VIRUS TO CAUSE A PANDEMIC, THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION MUST NOT HAVE EXISTING IMMUNITY AGAINST IT, AND THE VIRUS MUST BE CAPABLE OF SPREADING EASILY AND SUSTAINABLY FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

YES. LET'S HOPE THAT THIS VIRUS ISN'T
SPREADING FROM PERSON TO PERSON YET,
BUT THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO FIND OUT.
LOCAL HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
PROVIDERS ARE STILL REPORTING NORMAL
PATTERNS OF ILLNESS, ACCORDING TO OUR
STATE PUBLIC HEALTH COLLEAGUES.

THE FAIR MANAGER SAID SOME PEOPLE REPORTED GETTING SICK FOLLOWING THE FAIR, AND HE ALSO SAID MORE PIGS HAVE TESTED POSITIVE.





OKAY. LOOKS LIKE OUR JOB ISN'T OVER.

YES. WE WILL NEED TO FOLLOW UP WITH HIM AND OUR STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS TO SEE IF WE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR ILLNESS AND POSSIBLY GET THOSE PEOPLE TESTED. LET'S GO AHEAD AND ALSO COORDINATE WITH THE STATE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. WE CAN ASK THEM TO TAKE SAMPLES FOR TESTING FROM ANY PATIENTS WITH FLU-LIKE ILLNESS THAT HAVE HAD RECENT CONTACT WITH PIGS. WE SHOULD ALSO SET UP A PHONE CALL WITH STATE AND FEDERAL ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICIALS.









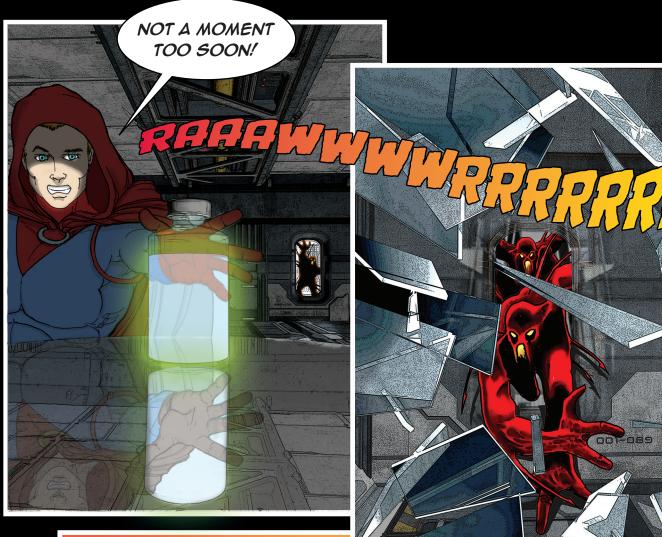
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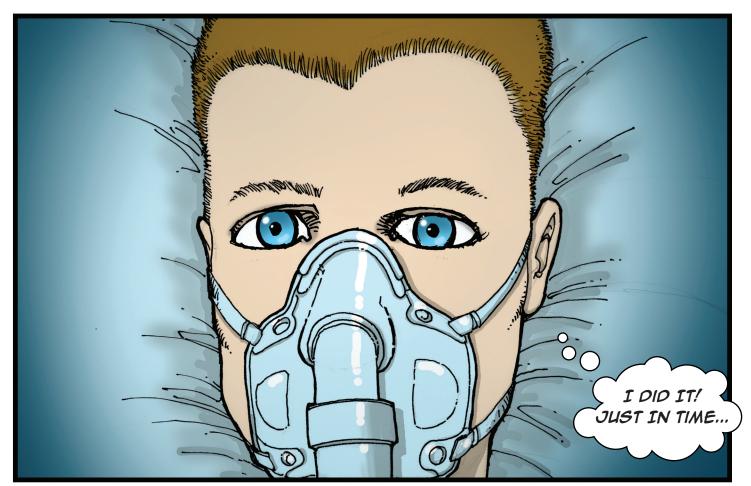






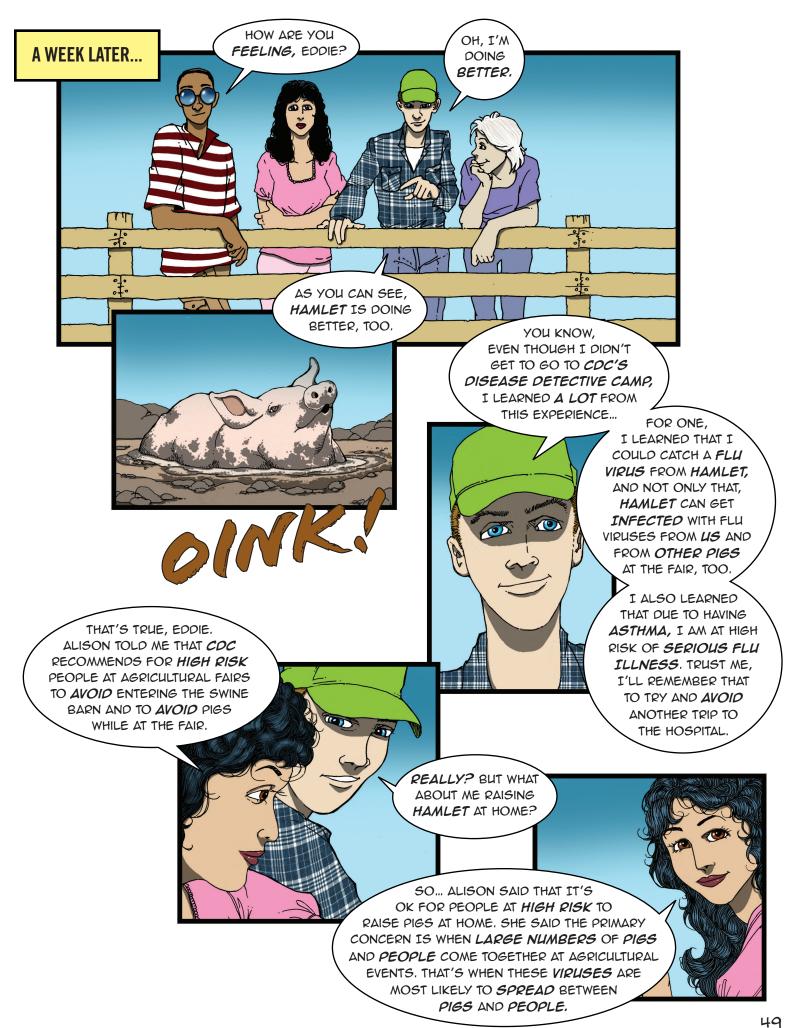


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WHILE EDDIE

WAS IN THE HOSPITAL,

ALISON TOLD ME A FEW

MORE THINGS.

SHE SAID WHEN

FLU VIRUSES FROM

PIGS INFECT PEOPLE,

IT'S CALLED A

"VARIANT FLU VIRUS"

INFECTION.

SHE SAID VARIANT
VIRUS INFECTIONS DON'T
HAPPEN OFTEN, BUT SOME
OCCUR EVERY YEAR,
PARTICULARLY DURING
FAIR SEASON.

ALISON ALSO SAID THAT
VARIANT VIRUSES ARE DIFFERENT
FROM THE FLU VIRUSES THAT NORMALLY
MAKE PEOPLE SICK DURING THE FLU
SEASON. SINCE PEOPLE AREN'T OFTEN
EXPOSED TO VIRUSES FROM PIGS,
MOST DON'T HAVE ANTIBODIES
THAT PROTECT AGAINST
VARIANT VIRUSES.

AS WE LEARNED

DURING DISEASE DETECTIVE

CAMP, OUR BODIES' IMMUNE SYSTEM

PRODUCES ANTIBODIES TO FIGHT AGAINST

INFECTION, AND THE SAFEST WAY TO GET

ANTIBODIES IS THROUGH VACCINATION.

ALTHOUGH THE FLU VACCINE ISN'T DESIGNED

TO PROTECT AGAINST VARIANT FLU, IT IS

STILL IMPORTANT TO GET, BECAUSE IT CAN

HELP PROTECT US FROM GETTING THE FLU

AND SPREADING IT TO OTHERS,

INCLUDING HAMLET.

OH WOW!
HOW OFTEN
DO PEOPLE GET
REALLY SICK FROM
THESE VIRUSES,



ALISON SAID THAT MOST
PEOPLE WITH VARIANT FLU

JUST HAVE TYPICAL FLU ILLNESS,
BUT JUST AS WITH ANY TYPE OF FLU,
SOME PEOPLE WILL GET REALLY

SICK FROM VARIANT FLU. THIS IS
PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR
PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK,
LIKE YOU.



HAD IS SPREADING BETWEEN PEOPLE...

ON THAT POINT,
ALISON SAID THAT THEY
ALWAYS TRY TO INVESTIGATE
VARIANT VIRUS INFECTIONS TO
SEE IF THEY ARE SPREADING
FROM PERSON-TO-PERSON.

SHE SAID MOST

VARIANT VIRUSES SPREAD FROM
AN INFECTED PIG TO A PERSON,
BUT THESE VIRUSES USUALLY ARE

NOT ABLE TO SPREAD EASILY
FROM PERSON TO PERSON,
LIKE SEASONAL FLU.



OH, YEAH! WHEN A FLU
VIRUS FROM ANIMALS GAINS
THE ABILITY TO SPREAD EASILY
FROM PERSON TO PERSON,
THAT'S WHEN A PANDEMIC



IN FACT, THAT'S HOW
THE 2009 FLU PANDEMIC
OCCURRED. ALEX TOLD ME
THE 2009 HINI VIRUS HAD A
MIX OF GENES FROM NORTH
AMERICAN PIGS, PIGS FROM
EUROPE AND ASIA, BIRDS,
AND EVEN HUMANS.

THAT'S...
KIND OF
CRAZY!



WOW!
YOU GUYS
JUST TAUGHT
ME A LOT!







## **ADDENDUM**

Please visit the following websites for additional information about health topics and recommendations discussed in The Junior Disease Detectives: Operation Outbreak.

## **CDC WEBSITE RESOURCES:**

CDC Flu Website: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/

CDC Swine/Variant Flu Website: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm

What People Who Raise Pigs Need to Know About Influenza (Flu):

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/people-raise-pigs-flu.htm

**Key Facts about Human Infections with Variant Viruses:** 

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/keyfacts-variant.htm

**Key Facts about Swine Influenza in Pigs:** 

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/keyfacts\_pigs.htm

**Key Facts for People Exhibiting Pigs at Fairs:** 

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/swineflu/fair\_exhibitor\_factsheet.pdf

Take Action to Prevent the Spread of Flu Between Pigs and People:

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/swineflu/prevent-spread-flu-pigs-at-fairs.pdf

CDC Healthy Pets Healthy People Website: https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html

CDC Zoonotic Diseases Website: https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html

CDC Pandemic Flu Website: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm

## **USDA WEBSITE RESOURCES:**

**Zoonotic Influenza and Measures for Prevention at Fairs:** 

http:/nasphv.org/documentsCompendiaZoonoticInfluenza.html

Influenza in Swine: https://www.usda.gov/topics/animals/one-health/influenza-swine

**USDA Surveillance for Influenza A Virus in Swine Update:** 

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa\_animal\_disease\_ information/sa\_swine\_health/ct\_siv\_surveillance/







