

CCSI WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Promoting Community Connections
& Sharing Resources

HIGHLIGHTS

- Children's Mental Health Awareness Day & Month
- Face Covering Resources
- Staying Safe when Holding Online Meetings

HOW WILL WE STAY CONNECTED?

[CCSI Website](#)

[CCSI COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Each **BBC** will have 1 hr virtual Zoom meetings on their originally scheduled dates through the month of May (and June) at 12 - 1 pm, register for each meeting from our [CCSI Calendar](#):

- The Bronx - May 8th
- Queens - May 18th
- Manhattan - May 21st
- Brooklyn - May 22nd

Our **Youth Advisory Council (YAC)** meetings are every Monday from 5-6 pm!
For youth under 30!

YAC Mtg [Website Calendar Link](#)

YAC [Zoom Meeting Registration](#)

These newsletters will be delivered every **Wednesday** for the duration of the NYC Coronavirus quarantine mandates

MAY IS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH!

Can you believe it's May already? May is traditionally Children's Mental Health Awareness Month, and traditionally the first Thursday of the first full week in May is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

Most national, state, and local events that would have been scheduled in May have been postponed until we can safely gather in large groups again.

There is at least one local Awareness Month event that has gone virtual scheduled for May 13th - 14th! Visiting Nurse Services of New York (VNSNY), who usually houses our Bronx BBC meetings, is hosting its annual **The Bronx Children's Mental Health Awareness Block Party** virtually for this year! Please contact Yacary Rivera at yrivera@vnsny.org for more details.

As we become aware of more virtual Children's Mental Health Awareness Month themed events we will pass that information along!

FACE COVERING RESOURCES

Effective the evening of Friday, April 17th all New Yorkers are now required to wear a face covering whenever we are in an environment where we can not guarantee maintenance of six feet from other people.

[NYS Governor's Mandate for Face Coverings](#) [4/17/20](#)

The reason for this order is less to protect the wearer of the face covering, and more so to protect others from the spread of the disease: it is a preventative measure. Therefore, to comply, you can have any face covering and not necessarily one that a medical provider would use. A covering is more effective at keeping a sneeze from infecting someone else than if an uncovered person were to sneeze in your vicinity.

New York City has just launched an initiative making face coverings available for everyone who needs one. Information on where and when the city is distributing face coverings can be found at [this link](#).

Details: New York City will continue distributing face coverings in parks across the city **free of charge** through Monday, May 11th. [Use the map found on the linked page](#) to find the closest Parks distribution location, date, and time.

Awesome Home Education Links:

- [Math Game Time](#)
- [Teaching Remotely for Grades K - 12](#)
- [Science for Kids](#)
- [Unite for Literacy](#)
- [TurtleDiary e-learning for kids](#)
- [PBS KIDS](#)
- [Starfall](#)
- [All-in-One Homeschool](#)
- [Thinking Games – Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool](#)
- [Funbrain](#)
- [Storyline Online](#)
- [Prodigy Game](#)
- [DISCOVERY #MINDBLOWN](#)
- [AmazingSpace](#)
- [National Geographic Kids](#)
- [TIME Magazine for Kids](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)

Links to NYC DOE Resources:

- [Free Meals](#)
- [DOE Student Accounts](#)
- [Remote Learning Device Request](#)
- [Learn At Home Main Page](#)
- [Chancellor's Message to Families](#)
- [DOE Middle School Enrollment](#)
- [High School Offer Letters & Waitlists Updates](#)
- [DOHMH COVID-19 Guidance for Colleges](#)

**Without community, there is no liberation...
but community must not mean a shedding of our differences,
nor the... pretense that these differences do not exist.**

- Audre Lorde

Staying Safe When Holding Online Meetings

Maybe you've heard of the term Zoombombing? In short, it is an unwanted guest or guests disrupting your scheduled Zoom meeting. It can be as mild as a single person being intentionally obnoxious and disruptive or it can be as malicious as an organized planned attack with multiple people disrupting the meeting by showing disturbing images, making racist, sexist, and/or lewd remarks.

Zoombombing is such an issue that the DOE forbade all DOE employees from initiating Zoom meetings. City agencies are largely using Microsoft Teams for holding group meetings.



<https://youtu.be/p1IMmOujc9c>

The Staten Island Borough Based Council Meeting this past Monday 5/4 was unfortunately on the receiving end of one of these more vicious attacks. We've highlighted the above video to show some strategies of how you can avoid what we experienced, particularly if you plan on still using Zoom.

The main takeaway is that this was the virtual equivalent of a group of people entering an open community meeting and committing illegal, profane acts -- in an in person setting the response would probably be to call security or the police. CCSI was not "hacked" in the sense that our information was compromised. We tried to make it easy for anyone to join our meetings, particularly people new to CCSI, but someone with malicious intent used that publicly available information to gain access to the meeting.

What this means going forward is that we will require pre-registration for all of the BBC meetings, and only give out the log-in information to those whom we can confirm their identity. It was a shocking and traumatic moment, but it was also a learning experience. We wanted to walk you through what happened so you can be mindful of how to protect yourself the next time you hold a large virtual group conversation.