

NURSE NANAS
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Lights up on the stage split into two separate rooms. In one room sits DOROTHY, a black woman in her 70's. She sits in a chair and holds the screen up with a selfie stick. She adjusts her hair or her make up, then FaceTimes her friend. DAISY, also a black woman in her 70's, walks into the room and picks up the phone.

DAISY
Hello?

DOROTHY
Hello?

DAISY
Hello?

DOROTHY
Daisy you there?

DAISY
Hello?

DOROTHY
Daisy, put the phone in front of you?

DAISY
How I'mma talk to you with the phone in front of me.

DOROTHY
It's FaceTime remember.

DAISY
Oh!

DAISY faces the phone towards herself.

DOROTHY
There you go.

DAISY

Can you see me?

DOROTHY

Yeah I see you there, but you need more light on you. Find your light.

DAISY

What do you mean?

DOROTHY

Turn the lamp on or something?

DAISY

Lord, I gotta get up and go over to the other chair then. Wait a minute.

DAISY gets up and moves to another chair.

DOROTHY

Where's the selfie stick I sent you?

DAISY

The self, what?

DOROTHY

Selfie stick.

DAISY

That stick thing you sent me in the mail?

DOROTHY

Yeah.

DAISY

I don't want that mess. I told you that before you bought it. Okay how's the light now?

DOROTHY

No, now you look darker.

DAISY

I'm sitting right in front of the window!

DOROTHY

But you got your back to it. I don't need to see your back, I need to see your face.

DAISY

You already know what it looks like.

DOROTHY

But the people on social media don't.

DAISY

We're not supposed to be social right now.

DOROTHY

No, Daisy. Just move back over to the couch, but the other end. And face the window.

DAISY gets up and moves over to the other end of the couch.

DAISY

Please tell me this is it. I don't want to move again.

DOROTHY

That's fine, honey. You alright?

DAISY

My joints are killing me. Let's just do this another day.

DOROTHY

Come on here, chile. Let's just do it real quick. You remember how to accept my request?

DAISY

Yes.

DOROTHY

Alright, I'm about to send it to you.

DOROTHY and DAISY go live on social media.

DOROTHY

Did it work?

DAISY

Yes it did!

DOROTHY

Okay. Well, hi everyone. Thank you for joining us-

DAISY

Who are you talking to?

DOROTHY

The people.

DAISY

What people?

DOROTHY

On social media.

DAISY

Well I don't see them.

DOROTHY

You're not supposed to see them. They're supposed to see you.

DAISY

But I can see you.

DOROTHY

You're supposed to see me.

DAISY

But not them.

DOROTHY

No.

DAISY

Why not? If they aren't in front of me or on the phone with me how am I supposed to talk to them?

DOROTHY

Because we're hosting a Live. Right now!

DAISY

Oh wait this is the part where they're gonna ask us questions.

DOROTHY

Eventually, but we have to tell them who we are first.

DAISY

This is too complicated.

DOROTHY

It really isn't, just follow my lead. Hi everyone, my name is Dorothy...

Beat.

DOROTHY

My name is Dorothy and...

DOROTHY gestures to DAISY, who is missing her cue.

DOROTHY

My name is Dorothy and-

DAISY

How many times are you gonna introduce yourself Dorothy?

DOROTHY

This is the part where you introduce yourself.

DAISY

Oh! I'm Daisy.

DOROTHY

And we are the Nurse Nanas. We are so excited to have you here with us during these troubling times. We are quarantined here in our apartments. We haven't been out of the house in about three weeks now. I'm adjusting pretty well, how about you Daisy?

DAISY

I've been retired for ten years and been washing my hands for over seventy. It's just another day to me.

DOROTHY

Great. Well a little more about the two of us. I was head nurse at the private practice my husband stated. We started the practice in Jackson because we wanted to serve our community and believe that black women everywhere deserve quality care. He was an OBGYN and I served as head nurse for twenty five years. Then I was office manager for just over twenty. I retired this past year, just in time for the pandemic.

DAISY

To sum it all up, I served in the Nurse corps during a time when I couldn't even be served in restaurants. I then retired from McGuire hospital where I was a nurse for over forty years. I did everything from inserting an IV to testing green pee. I knew what I was doing then and I know what I'm doing now. Only difference is I ain't doing it so don't ask me.

DOROTHY

We both agree that retired life has been nice, but in the middle of a pandemic everyone has to play their part. Unfortunately the elderly are highly susceptible to viruses so we had to get a little creative with our efforts. Thank God for grandchildren because now we have the tools to innovatively answer your questions about healthy practices. Daisy, should we get started.

DAISY

You mean we ain't started yet? I told you we were supposed to see the people. I knew we weren't talking to anybody.

DOROTHY

No Daisy, we're going to get started with the questions. Now some of you answered the questions in the newsletter. Daisy, do you want to remind everyone of the questions?

DAISY

Sure...but who's gonna remind me?

DOROTHY

We asked you all in the newsletter, “When was your last check up?” and “Did you get a flu shot this season?” Most of you said that you went for your annual check up last year and have plans to do so this year, but still, and unsettling twenty-eight percent of you said it’s been over a year since your last check. That’s not good.

DAISY

Y’all need to go to the doctor. It takes the same number of visits that most of y’all do church, once a year.

DOROTHY

Once a year could be all it takes to save you.

DAISY

She’s talking about the doctor now, not church, heathens.

DOROTHY

Now for the flu shot, that’s a little different.

DAISY

No it isn’t.

DOROTHY

The flu shot is neither a guarantee that you will nor won’t contract the flu, but it gives your body, essentially an extra boost to be ready if the flu does come after you.

DAISY

And it’ll catch you if you don’t.

DOROTHY

And a number for offices and pharmacies distribute them for free. So why not take the extra step to making sure that you are fully prepared for the flu season.

DAISY

That’s just what I don’t understand/ Why don’t y’all do what you need to do to make sure you stay healthy?

DOROTHY

Well some people aren’t always one hundred percent what they should do.

DAISY

Nah they forget what they need to do when it doesn't feel good to them. It's the doctor not the carnival. That's why I knew Flintstone gummies were a bad idea. Now everybody thinks medicine is supposed to taste like candy.

DOROTHY

Well the good news that we are here to clear up any questions you may have. I see that some of you have been commenting since we've been live.

DAISY

Where do you see comments?

DOROTHY

Down at the bottom.

DAISY

Oh that's what that is.

DOROTHY

Yes.

DAISY

Oh look, maya says "Hey Nana, lookin' good girl!" Hey Maya, can you hear me? I can't hear you.

DOROTHY

She can hear you but you won't hear her.

DAISY

Well if she talks instead of that texting then I'll hear her.

DOROTHY

Okay, let's move on to our first question. Someone says "If I'm quarantined in the house, do I still need to shower?" Oh...

DAISY

Dorothy don't play with me. Nobody really asked that.

DOROTHY

Look at the bottom of the screen and see for yourself.

DAISY

Are you serious? Yes you need to bathe yourself!

DOROTHY

Now Daisy, let's give the benefit of the doubt here. No one is going anywhere right now, so I can understand why someone would feel the need to not to fully practice personal hygiene.

DAISY

Someone take this woman's licensure. She is justifying stinky bootys!

DOROTHY

I'm not, all I'm say is-

DAISY

All I'm saying, yes you need to take a shower. With soap. And please use a rag, don't just put the bar directly on your body, funking it up. That's triffin'.

DOROTHY

Also-

DAISY

And another thing, wash your WHOLE body. Don't just wash the top and expect the soap to run down and do the rest. You need to scrub! Head to toe, then under the toes. Wash yourself!

DOROTHY

To my aggressive friends point, if you don't wash, you still have bacteria on your body from the day's activities, which could carry a number of sicknesses. It's best to bathe everyday.

DAISY

And wash your clothes. And your linens. When in doubt, wash it out.

DOROTHY

Daisy you have to ease up on the people a little bit.

DAISY

Now hang on Dorothy, when I agreed to this, I thought we were going to talk about all that's going on right now. I didn't realize I wasn't going to be basically teaching people that they need to wipe themselves.

DOROTHY

Okay does anyone have a question directly tied to the pandemic or to quarantine or anything that we're dealing with right now. Next question "Hi Nanas, speaking of wiping, here's a question.

DAISY

Oh no.

DOROTHY

As you know we're in the middle of a pandemic, people are panic buying a lot of toilet paper. So much so, that I even saw a fight break out over a single roll. In case we have a hard time finding toilet paper, what are other things...Huh it's cut off. Well I guess he's wondering what else he can use.

DAISY

Best bet is baby wipes or those flushable wipes.

DOROTHY

In a pincer, a napkin could do the trick as well. And to this note, everyone, please relax. There is no need to stress about purchasing anything. The stores are considered to be essential. They will continue to restock shelves. Manufacturers are also hard at work.

DAISY

Also, please be nice to the grocery employees. They have a lot to do and are putting themselves at risk as well. Calm down.

DOROTHY

We will make it, but only together. Oh..wait a minute. He sent another message. "Sorry Nanas, I hit send too soon. What was going to do was asking "what are other things we can do instead of wipe?"

DAISY

Instead of wipe?!

DOROTHY

Can we just walk around...NO!

DAISY

Jesus, I'm ready, take me now!

DOROTHY

Okay! Well that's all for us today. We'll be back next week, same time, same place.

DAISY

We're doing this again?

DOROTHY

Until then, stay home, stay healthy, and-

DAISY

Stay away from me.

DOROTHY AND DAISY

Bye!

End of Play