

NEW YORK POST

FRONTLINE FABULOUS

They're the queens of corona!
Glam makeovers give NYC's
essential workers the royal
treatment they deserve

By DOREE LEWAK and SUZY WEISS

Next stop: new 'do.
Following months of DIY haircuts and at-home beauty hacks, The Post teamed up with the newly reopened Pierre Michel Salon on the Upper East Side to give five essential workers — from a bus driver to a hospital employee — well-deserved makeovers.

"I was honored to have the opportunity to give something back to the front-line workers who have been working tirelessly and so hard for months," Pierre Michel head stylist Jerome Lordet told The Post, adding that the luxe beauty treatments were "the least I could do."
Here, the five newly refreshed ladies reveal how they love their new color and freshly lacquered digits.

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SHANEEN SPIVEY, 45, JERSEY CITY

Job: Cleaner for the MTA

Life on front lines: Single mom Shaneen Spivey can't work from home. "Trains still need to be fixed up," said Spivey, who works as a cleaner in a train yard in Coney Island, where the subways are serviced.

Along with juggling cooking, laundry and spending time with her 11-year-old daughter, Spivey made time to watch YouTube tutorials and teach herself how to braid her own hair and her daughter's. "She has a head full of hair; it's like another job," she said. "It takes me about two days to finish braiding my natural hair."

Makeover musings: "At the salon, I got a root touch-up, a blowout and a cut, which I wouldn't be able to do myself," said Spivey, who says her hair was damaged from the braiding. She went with chocolate brown to "bring out my eyes."

"I love how my hair bounces when it moves now," said Spivey.



MARIA SANTOS, 39, LOWER MANHATTAN

Job: Physician's assistant in internal medicine treating COVID-19 patients at Montefiore Hospital

Life on the front lines: "I've been working with COVID patients since the start [of the pandemic] in New York City. It's been difficult not only dealing at the hospital, but also just getting to work has been really rough," said Santos, who works 24-hour shifts.

"I live in downtown Manhattan, so it has become difficult to continue to take the subway to work at all hours. I've even had to call the police," she said,

when a thug descended on her at her station. And then there's dodging the dicey activities: "I saw people smoking crack. I've never seen the subway like that — it was really bad."

At the height of the crisis, she said, she would cry on her way home from work after seeing patients in so much pain. "We were really hit hard at the hospital," said Santos, who, like many in her unit, contracted the virus back in March, but went right back to work after about 10 days. "You help people any way you can."

Makeover musings: "I definitely neglected my self-care. I haven't been to a salon since February," said Santos, who lives on her own. "You let things go. I had 4-inch roots!" But with her blond locks refreshed, the health-care hero is back in business. "I definitely feel more like my old self. I'm so happy now," she said. "I looked at myself in the mirror, and said, 'I don't look so bad anymore!'"



LESLIE MORALES, 18, FLATBUSH

Job: Grocery store clerk

Life on the front lines: "I wasn't scared of the pandemic, but it was definitely stressful," said Morales, who has worked long shifts over the past few months to wipe down registers and carts, organize curbside pickup orders for the elderly and calm down demanding customers. "They were all freaking out about toilet paper," she said. Yeast and flour shortages followed the toilet paper one, according to Morales, and lately, "People keep buying bananas, cereal, canned goods and ice cream," she said.

The teen works six shifts per week at Foodtown in Prospect Heights and said she's developed a new self-care routine over the past few months: "Sometimes I take a walk around the neighborhood after work to decompress."



She also hasn't been afraid to take beauty matters into her own hands: cutting her hair, experimenting with red and green dyes and using an acne-fighting face wash and lotion to combat the dreaded "maskne." "I'm trying to take better care of my skin, since the mask makes me break out," she said.

Makeover musings: At the salon, Morales went with a short bob to complement her blunt bangs and a return to her natural dark brown color. "I wanted to start the summer fresh," said the cashier, who lives with her parents. She said her new look is perfect for long days at work: "I just put a hair clip in to keep my bangs out of my face, and I'm out the door."



ANGELIQUE TAVERAS, 37, QUEENS

Job: NYPD sergeant

Life on the front lines: "When you start this job, people say that when everyone's running away from something, you run towards it," said Taveras, a 14-year NYPD veteran.

Between the pandemic and the protests, Taveras said, "Work and home life have changed a lot. You gotta worry about your safety, and keeping your whole family safe. It can feel like psychological warfare."

While she and her firefighter husband, who sometimes works 24-hour shifts, are on duty, their 3-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter are cared for by her elderly mother, who, as a cancer survivor, is in a higher-risk group for COVID-19.

Her routine after coming home is to "decon" (decontaminate) and strip down



in a laundry area, take a shower, then clean and disinfect common surfaces. "In the beginning, it was very hard with my 3-year-old son, who ran to hug me," Taveras said. But now, unfortunately, it's become a norm. He knows "Mommy has to clean first."

Makeover musings: There is no personal time. The last time I did something for myself was maybe six months ago, before the pandemic," she said. Getting a scalp treatment and a mani-pedi "was so relaxing." "The best part is when they massage your head," she said. "It was the first time in a long time I actually felt pampered."

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