

Healing the world with only a mask on
By Rae-Ann Santos

They tell us to stay home,
To shelter in place,
They showed a sick world,
A virus spreading with pace.

The virus knows no bounds,
Infecting country by country,
The virus has no sounds,
And no one can see it coming.

When it began in China,
President took it as a joke,
He was the only one sleeping,
Everyone else was woke.

The virus had arrived,
News updates by the hour,
The virus was quick,
Spreading like wildfire.

As a developed country,
We should have been prepared,
As one of the wealthiest countries,
We were reluctant to share.

When the virus hit China,
Death tolls were off the charts,
Their leadership handled it,
Everyone doing their part.

China's death tolls peaked,
Their response team ready,
America on its heels,
Death toll growing steady.

America had the resources,
The experts in the cities,

America had Trump as president,
Whom fired the committee.

Hidden from the world,
Held in dim light,
His actions years ago,
With consequences in hindsight.

Actions unacknowledged,
Loved ones that have passed,
How long is this pandemic?
Questions stay in the past.

A brave new world,
With people lacking the immunity,
These are challenging times,
With people missing their community.

Community of people,
Family, friends, and more,
Cannot come closer,
To your house than their car door.

Virus all around,
Taking people by storm,
People struggle to find,
The way to their new norm.

Restaurants have been closed,
Barbershops and gyms too,
People are seeking alternatives,
Having to try something new.

Haircuts are done at home,
Gym workouts in the backyard,
People forced to stay home,
Social distancing is hard.

With the shelter-in-place,
Most people panic-buy,

With social distancing,
Some people don't even try.

A need to socialize,
We want to feel connected,
Above all else,
We want to feel protected.

In public places,
Must stand six feet apart,
New public health laws in place,
Most people doing their part.

Maintaining distance,
Giving each other space,
Humanity at its best,
Learning at its own pace.

Unemployment,
At its highest ever,
College students,
With academic endeavors.

Public Health students,
Graduating this semester,
With finances crashing,
Endless debt and whatever.

We emerge with resilience,
To take the challenging task on,
Of healing the world,
With only a mask on.