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Visualizing the Covid-19 Pandemic Assignment

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Visualizing COVID-19

In this assignment, you will create a visualization for a new COVID-19 public health campaign, either for February/March or now. Looking at the "flatten the curve" visualization, what would you have done differently in February/March if you had been the author? Alternatively, what data and action do you think your community (defined by you) needs for the current moment?

Your genre can be either another social media-style post or an online news article for a publication like NYT or The Guardian. Thus, it will be accompanied by either a 1-3 sentence blurb or 75-150 word paragraph, respectively. Consider how your choice of genre affects your audience, their attention span, and your tone. You should speak to your community, whether that's Carleton, your hometown, your current location, or a diasporic community you identify with.

As before, mode is up to you. While completing this assignment, you should be asking yourself the 5 Critical Questions.

Your submission will comprise either a **visualization + 1-3 sentence complementary text** (like what you would see on Instagram or Twitter) or **visualization + paragraph** (which would accompany your figure in a larger news piece). You will also submit a **longer narrative (250-500 words)** describing your process, purpose, and limitations of your data or visualization to me. A successful assignment will:

- represent any data accurately
- communicate a clear central message and action
- be visually appealing and economical (but it does not need to be perfectly polished)
- explain to me how and why you created your visualization, with citations
- explain to me the limitations of your data and visualization

Some links from class for data, context, and inspiration. Note there is tons of COVID data out there, so feel free to go searching but be judicious: not all data are created equal.

<https://www.statnews.com/feature/coronavirus/covid-19-tracker/>

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/new-cases-50-states>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/08/17/how-china-controlled-the-coronavirus>

A couple of recent articles from the Minnesota Star Tribune, if you're looking at Carleton or Minnesota:

[a closer look at Minnesota's numbers for the last two weeks](#)

[a closer look at surges specifically in rural areas...and why the death curve may not stay so flat](#)