Collaborative Assignment Reflection

The problem statement is an interesting one and the analysis is quite open ended, so it was great to have discussions on the kind of analysis we wish to perform to reach the requested conclusions. People had different perspectives on what assumptions should be made and what should be derived logically from the information available on the internet. It was fun to have brainstorming sessions, and even debugging sessions with groups of people trying to arrive at a conclusion from a similar dataset.

I had elaborate discussions with Tharun, Charlie, Anagha, Juhi and Khirod about what our ideas are and what are the benefits and limitations of the approaches we discussed. I decided to first plot the number of cases, both cumulative and the daily number, and then the masking mandates on each day of the given time period. After getting a sense of the basic trends in the data I went on to further derive derivative and difference functions to understand the implicit effect on the mandates on the spread of covid.

The open endedness of the assignment made is especially helpful to discuss among peers and get a sense of what working in a team would be like, while maintaining our own individuality in code writing and drawing inferences. I had an engaging conversation with Tharun about identifying the at risk population by incorporating the total population, number of infected people, death rate and vaccination assumptions. While that gave me multiple ideas and a good starting point, I believe that it was beyond the scope of the project given the limited time we had to complete the analysis and document it. I would like to work on it after this project and have added them as future scope. In addition to the discussion with him, I had a constructive s=conversation with Anagha and Juhi where we limited the scope of the analysis we are to perform in order to ensure delivery in a timely manner. This gave me a sense of working on an open ended vast problem in a work place with limited time. It was a stressful, yet fun exercise.

The availability of information about the subject online makes it more interesting in the sense that we could scope out on our own the problem statement and the approach we need to take with the given assumptions. So at the very least, the assignment helped me appreciate the trade off between thinking big and delivering on time, and the importance of working collaboratively on an individual project.