**Correlating Social Media Activity and**

**Rising Cases of COVID 19 in Florida. Spring 2021**

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**Abstract**

A year into the COVID-19 pandemic and there are still many questions to fully comprehend how to fight this virus and future ones. One question is if social media can be used as a tool to forecast outbreaks. This work determines if trends on social media correlate with COVID-19 positive cases and deaths in Florida. The presented approach collects Twitter messages (tweets), aggregates COVID-19 case and death statistics, and builds a data model with the Python programming language. The model will determine if there is a strong enough correlation between social media activities and COVID cases.