**Aggregating statistical models and human judgment**

Plain Language Statement

Project Aim

This project aims to provide public health officials metaforecasts—a combination of probabilistic predictions from computational models, subject matter experts, and trained forecasters—of the COVID-19 outbreak, and an expert consensus of the most effective interventions to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and impact of COVID-19.

Metaforecasts of the COVID-19 outbreak and consensus predictions on interventions will be available to the public and public health officials. Software used to aggregate predictions will be available at: <https://github.com/computationalUncertaintyLab/aggStatModelsAndHumanJudgment_PUBL>.

Experts and trained forecasters’ predictions rely on a combination of objective data and subjective, unstructured data. We aim to broaden the type of information about COVID-19 available to public health officials by combining predictions from experts and computational models. That said, most computational models are restricted to making passive forecasts, predictions of an evolving target through time, but humans can make active forecasts of possibly effective interventions to guide public health strategy, policy, and decision making.

Study procedures

Participants have the option to participate in both aims of this project. The first project will ask participants to create an account on a dedicated forecasting server by randomizing them to either [Metaculus](https://www.metaculus.com/questions/) or [Good Judgment Inc.](https://goodjudgment.com/) platforms and submit probabilistic predictions of a small set of targets related to the US COVID-19 outbreak. The second project follows a Delphi procedure. Participants will receive an email from Thomas McAndrew containing a link to the Delphi process that will ask experts to propose a set of effective interventions for public health officials to implement, and a rationale for choosing them. Interventions from all participants, and the rationale, will be collated and sent back to all participants. The final stage will ask participants to review the collated document and submit interventions ranked by their expected effectiveness at reducing the burden of COVID-19.

Data Privacy

Any information collected through this research project that personally identifies you will not be voluntarily released or disclosed without your separate consent, except as specifically required by law. Individual answers to questions will remain confidential.

Data Security

Individual predictions, answers, and identifiable information will be stored on a secure server hosted by Lehigh University and accessible by Thomas McAndrew and his researcher collaborators and students that are a part of his research lab. A *private* GitHub repository will be created to track changes to aggregated data and code. No individual responses will be stored on GitHub.

Participation and contact information

Your decision to participate is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time and do not need to answer all questions asked or provide information you are not comfortable answering.

If you have any questions about this study, including study expectations and requirements, you may contact Thomas McAndrew at [mcandrew@lehigh.edu](mailto:mcandrew@lehigh.edu) or +1 (570) 575-4341.

You may report problems that may result from your participation or direct questions in regard to your rights as a subject in this study to Lehigh University’s Office of Research Integrity at +1 (610) 758-2871 or [inirb@lehigh.edu](mailto:inirb@lehigh.edu). All reports or correspondence will be kept confidential.