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1. Why did you choose the problem?

We chose the problem of addressing "Was it a safe and just decision to bring college students back to campus this Fall 2020 semester?" because this is a question that has far-reaching social implications. There have been outbreaks of coronavirus across college campuses this semester; these outbreaks have put students, faculty and staff, and citizens of these college locations at risk. We want to help settle the debate over whether it was a smart decision to bring college students back to campus as this will also help us better understand the implications of returning to campus for the Spring 2021 semester.

2. How you collected datasets?

We found two datasets; one with a list of all the colleges and their coronavirus cases in the continental United States and one with a list of all the top 100 universities. We performed further research in order to add data to these sets. For the list of all the top 100 universities, we added information about what restrictions were being placed on these campuses. For example, Boston College is a completely open campus and classes are being held in-person until finals. For the list of all the colleges and their coronavirus cases, we added information about state restrictions and cumulative coronavirus cases. All of our information is as of November 5th as this is the last time that universities all reported their cases.

3. Why do the datasets meet your needs?

These datasets meet our needs because they are able to help us find an answer to our question. By looking at state restrictions, we can see if the coronavirus cases on college campuses are by fault of the university or by fault of the state for having too little regulations (i.e. mask wearing is not required). By looking at the Top 100 universities, we are able to see how the best schools in the nation have handled the virus. These universities have the greatest endowments, the highest-paid staff, etc.. Thus, these universities should be the most equipped to handle coronavirus containment and restrictions; how these universities dealt with the pandemic has far-reaching implications for how lower-ranked universities will be able to deal with the pandemic.

Rank	College	openStatus (Top 100 C	closingStatus (
1	Princeton University	Completely Closed	Fully Remote
2	Harvard University	Completely Closed	Fully Remote
3	Columbia University	Completely Open	Post Finals
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Hybrid	Post Finals
5	Yale University	Completely Open	Post Finals
6	Standford University	Completely Open	Thanksgiving
7	University of Chicago	Completely Open	Thanksgiving
8	University of Pennsylvania	Completely Closed	Fully Remote
9	California Institute of Technology	Completely Closed	Fully Remote
10	Johns Hopkins University	Hybrid	Post Finals
11	Northwestern University	Completely Open	Post Finals
12	Duke University	Completely Open	Post Finals
13	Dartmouth College	Completely Open	Post Finals
14	Brown University	Hybrid	Thanksgiving
15	Vanderbuilt University	Completely Open	Thanksgiving

(Top 100 Universities dataset which includes rank of the college, the college name, the open status of the college, and the closing status of the college)

date	state	county	city	college	cases	stateRestrictionsMasksRequired	cumulativeCases
2020-11-05	Alabama	Madison	Huntsville	Alabama A&M University	41	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Montgomery	Montgomery	Alabama State University		yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Limestone	Athens	Athens State University	23	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Lee	Auburn	Auburn University	2047	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Montgomery	Montgomery	Auburn University at Montgomery	80	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Walker	Jasper	Bevill State Community College	4	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Jefferson	Birmingham	Birmingham-Southern College	196	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Limestone	Tanner	Calhoun Community College	36	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Tallapoosa	Alexander City	Central Alabama Community College	24	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Coffee	Enterprise	Enterprise State Community College	32	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Etowah	Gadsden	Gadsden State Community College	45	yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Montgomery	Montgomery	Huntingdon College		yes	199158
2020-11-05	Alabama	Calhoun	Jacksonville	Jacksonville State University	219	yes	199158

(College and Coronavirus dataset with the latest update date, the state, country, city, college name, cumulative cases, whether masks are required in that state, and how many cumulative cases that state has)

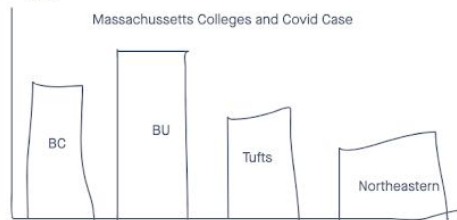4. Sketches with annotations showing visual encoding as well as interactions

Was bringing colleges back to campus a safe and just decision?

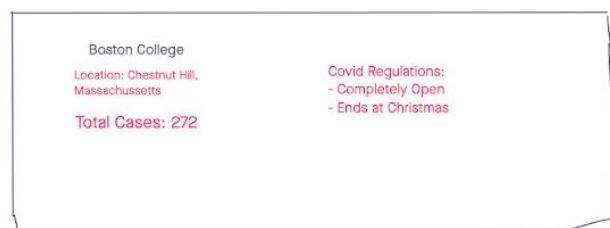Poll: Do you think that bringing students back to campus was a safe and just decision?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Heatmap of the United States based on Cumulative Covid Cases as of November 5th, 2020

Heatmap of the United States based on Cumulative College Student Covid Cases as of November 5th, 2020

* click on a state for college chart and it shows a breakdown of the Top 100 college's in that state and how many covid cases they had as of 2019*
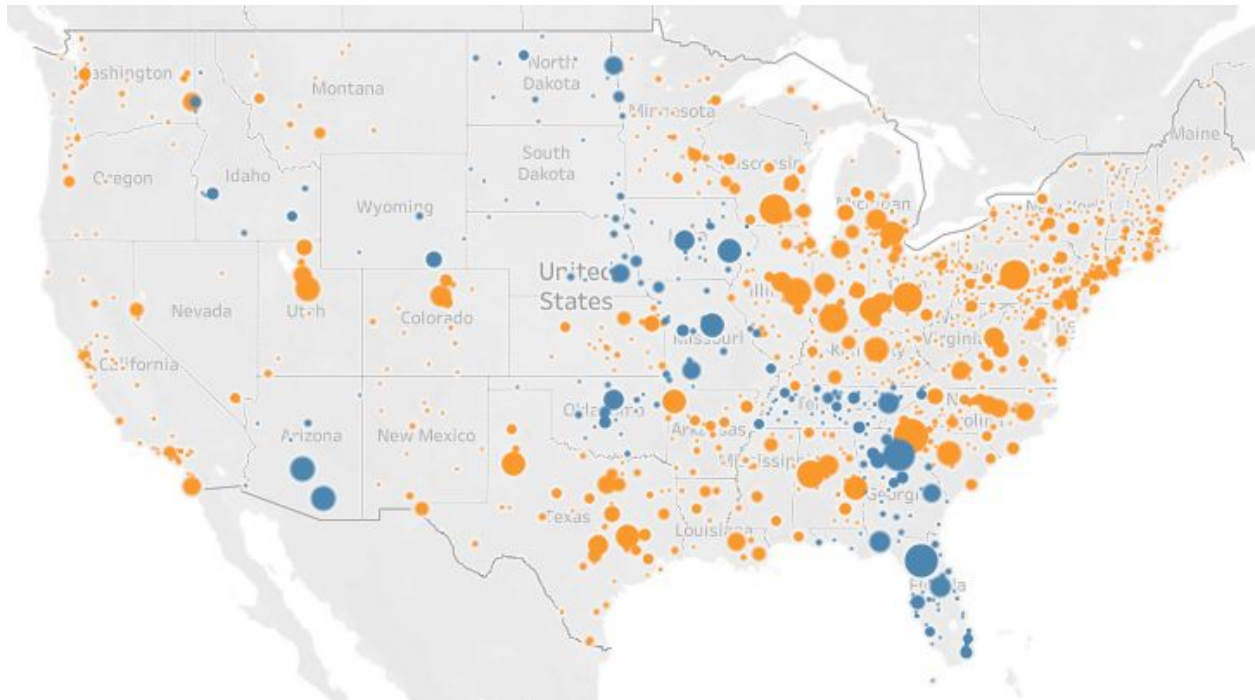
Massachussetts Colleges and Covid Case

BC   BU   Tufts   Northeastern

click on a college and it will give additional information about its location, and its covid regulations

Boston College

Location: Chestnut Hill, Massachussetts

Total Cases: 272
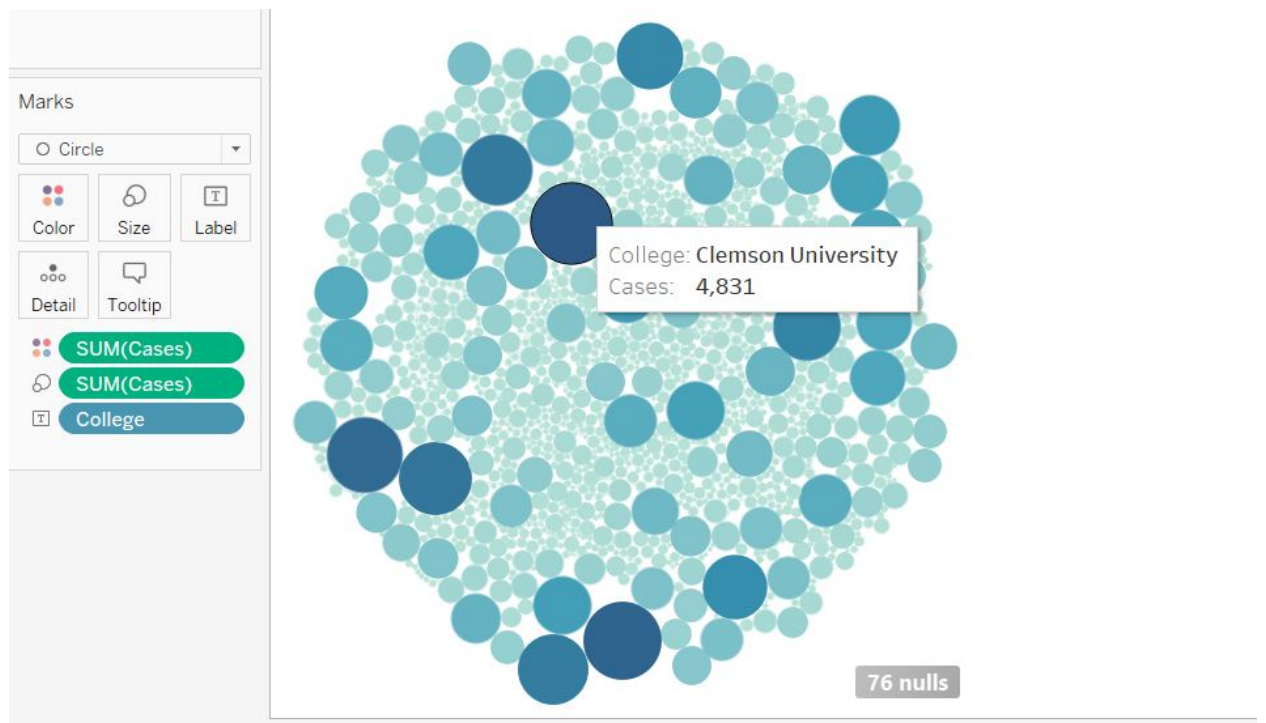
Covid Regulations:
- Completely Open
- Ends at Christmas

list of articles about college students causing a spike in their areas

Do you think bringing college students back to campus was a safe and just decision?

Novel Idea:
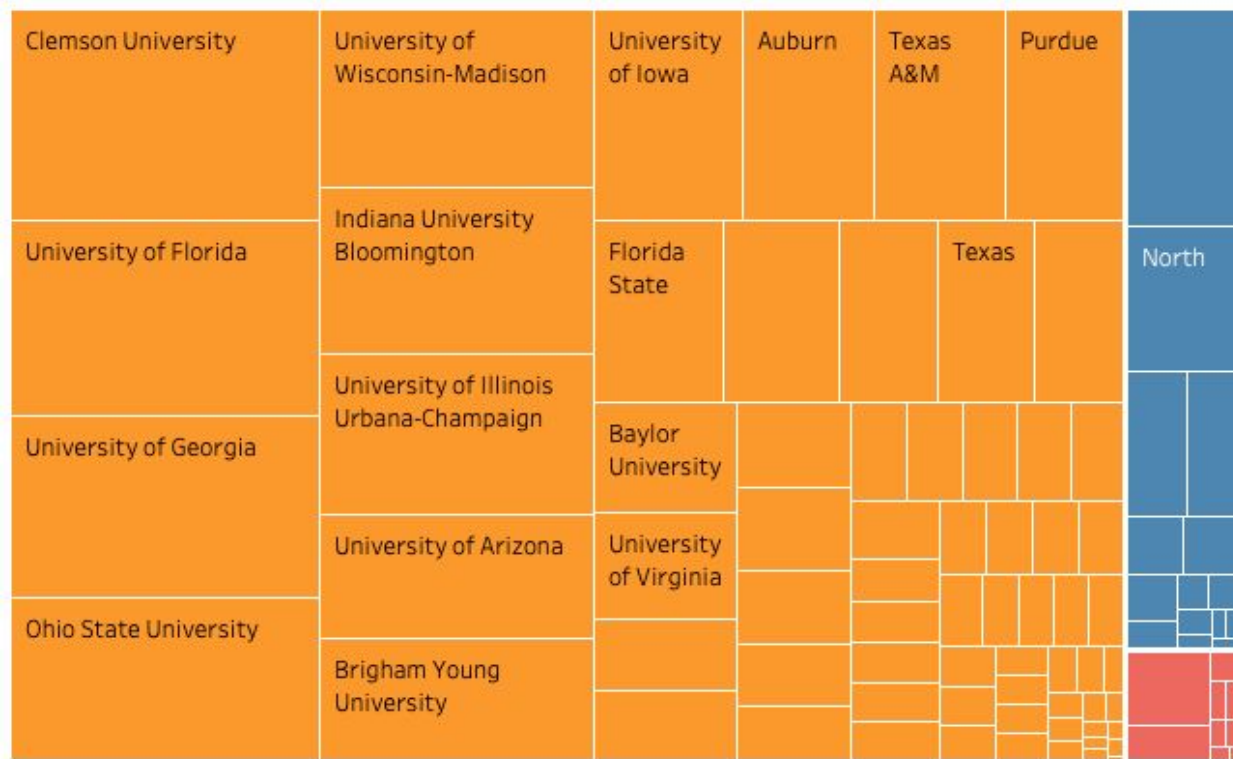Top 100 Colleges as Microbe Emojis based on number of cumulative cases

Colleges mapped, colored by presence of mask mandate (orange - yes, blue - no)

Colleges with color and circle size representing their number of cases. Probably can be filtered to the list of Top 100 colleges.

A choropleth Square Visualization that shows the severity of covid cases in the top 100 colleges and their states.

Heat map of cases by school organized by opening status: Closed, Open, Hybrid

GitHub Pages Link:

https://junhyungso.github.io/VisFinalProj-CollegeCovid/