

**Paper#2: Visualizing Epidemics**

The name of the disease in the Plague app is the Lopa Virus. During the first game, I began the Lopa Virus in India because it is one of the world's most impoverished nation. It took 20 minutes to affect 100 people since India does not have abundant resources to help people stay healthy and safe. Also, many people were probably getting in contact with each other since the Lopa virus is invisible and it evolved from bacteria which produced harmful germs. It took approximately 40 minutes to affect 1,000,000 people because there was no cure found yet and the virus constantly spread to other parts of India as well. The first death of the Lopa Virus was reported and confirmed in Saudi Arabia and it was inevitable since the death rates in other countries rapidly increased.

A huge majority of people in New Zealand died faster than new people who were being infected. To add on, The Lopa Virus became more infectious than HIV and it spread in the USA. However, low rates of people were infected from the Lopa virus because the USA is a developed country and has doctors and nurses who recommend specialized medicines and treatments. The first symptom of the Lopa virus was the coughing symptom. Airplanes were utilizing new sterilization air filters to stop airplanes transmitting any disease between countries. Soon, the Lopa virus mutated and developed the rash symptom.

The Lopa virus became notorious due to a doctor in India discovering the disease and reporting other countries to be aware. It was announced that this virus became more infectious than the common cold. From there on, the virus became immensely harmful and caused more people to die because of total organ failure symptom. For this reason, India started working on the cure by researching. Sadly, the virus killed more than the Black Death and the Spanish Flu since new statistics showed that the Lopa virus killed more than 75 million people worldwide.

Soon, global research focused on the cure which was progressing by 36%. The Lopa virus was officially placed on watchlist since it became dangerous, and governments warned that it become unstoppable. Russia sent research teams to infected countries since they were assisting in speeding the development of a cure for the Lopa virus.

During the second game, the Lopa virus first began in the USA since it is a wealthy nation. It took 50 minutes for the plague to affect 100 people and 55 minutes to affect 1,000,000 people since USA has high quality healthcare. The first death was reported in Poland and I think it took long because they followed safety procedures and were working on the cure. The major differences between the two games are that it took India faster and USA slower to spread the Lopa virus. During the second game, the Lopa virus began in the USA and initially spread to Mexico. Then, the virus started to infect thousands of people by developing the Pneumonia symptom. From there on, Canada led the global cure effort by sending research teams to infected countries by speeding up the development for a vaccine. Most importantly, the cure in USA progressed faster (44%) than India since they had efficient medicines and better resources to develop the vaccine.

The Lopa virus destroyed human race because many people from all over the nation were dying and there was a delay for the cure to progress due to lack of funding available for every country. The Plague game helped me to understand pandemic transmission easily because it displayed vectors that provided icons and descriptions to explain how a disease can infect people regarding their symptoms. To add on, it helped me visualize how a disease transmits susceptible infections to people displaying statistics and data of DNA, infectivity, severity, and lethality. My experience of playing this game amid the Covid pandemic went emotional because I watch and listen to the news daily and I hear that death rates have increased more in the USA than in other countries even though the USA is a developed country. Even though there has been a cure for this virus, people are still not being cured completely by the vaccine and death rates are rapidly increasing in other countries.