COVID-19 Worldwide and in Colorado Peer Review

This is an excellent and well thought out visualization project, and virtually all of my critiques are minor. My biggest concern overall is that the project is somewhat over-ambitious given the time frame we have, but all of the proposed visualizations make sense and feel cohesive.

Task 1

The “COVID-19 Worldwide Browser” using an effective chloropleth map approach to give the user a sense of which countries have been most affected by the pandemic. The filtering control panel is intuitive and offers the user a variety of views to drill down into worldwide trends, both in terms of COVID cases and COVID-related deaths. The legend is not visible in this document, but it appears that different hues represent bins of a categorical variable. If this is correct, I’m curious about how these bins were chosen, and whether it might be better to represent these attributes using luminance or saturation instead, so that the numeric attributes are represented more continuously. If this makes the map more difficult to read, then it might be worth looking into a control panel option that allows the user to adjust bin sizes instead (within reasonable limits of the chosen color scheme). Also, it might be nice to use two different color schemes for cases and deaths, so that the user has a visual cue about which data they are looking at.

The second part of task 1 seems slightly harder to accomplish using this visualization. As I understand it, line charts showing deaths or cases over time will show up at the bottom of the visualization when users click on a specific country. This is a great idea for providing the user with additional detail, but I don’t think it allows for easy comparison between countries because user will have to keep a mental map while clicking back and forth between countries. The ability to select multiple countries would be helpful, or perhaps a plot could replace the planned data table with derived indexes.

Task 2

This task is slightly difficult to evaluate, because I’m not quite sure what the designer means by “test efficiency.” If it’s the percentage of the total population that has been tested, then I think this could be easily incorporated into the worldwide browser by adding tests to the deaths/cases dropdown option in the control panel.