

APP

New website allows its users to register cases and symptoms of COVID19 near them

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

opendemic.org

Dear Press Team,

We are pleased to announce the launch of our web interface, opendemic.org. Through this new platform, our users can consult a map to register symptoms or confirm they've tested positive for COVID19 in a way that is both anonymous and secure.

[Opendemic.org](https://opendemic.org) is a non-profit effort developed by a small group of volunteers connected by their interest in developing a technology to reduce the spread and contagion of COVID19 worldwide. Started by David Hachuel, who obtained a Master's Degree in Computer and Information Science from Cornell University and co-founded the gastrointestinal technological firm Auggi, Opendemic is a collaborative tool where through the use of a map, its users are presented with risk zones based on anonymous reports of symptoms of COVID19 and positive diagnostics of the disease. Depending on the symptoms, and their frequency, an algorithm assigns a level of risk to each report. Later, the location of these reports are presented in a simple and anonymous way in a map to be seen by other users located within a 10 kilometer (6.2 miles) distance. The premise of the platform is to show users in a visual way that the disease is all around them, and in many cases, closer than they think. Through this effort, we hope to promote respect towards quarantine and social distancing while also provide relevant information to those organizations that could use our data to allocate resources or improve procedures to COVID19 patients.

Currently, the platform can be used through the web app that can be found at www.opendemic.org or through a chatbot in Telegram. The team is working towards habilitating a text messaging tool to allow users who don't dispose of smartphones the same benefits of the platform. Additionally, Opendemic is in process of developing a statistical model capable of estimating the number of individuals who have been undiagnosed as well as those who are possibly asymptomatic around the user. This is based on public information of the contagion rate as well as density of the population, among others.

The team is comprised of a group of individuals with diverse technical profiles and professions. Following is a brief summary of the current participants:

[OPENDEMIC.ORG](https://opendemic.org) - TEAMOPENDEMIC@GMAIL.COM - @OPENDEMIC

- David Hachuel: Originally from Spain, currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Mathematics from New York University and has a master's degree in Computer and Information Science from Cornell University. He's currently obtaining a second master's degree in Public Health from Harvard University. He has also co-founded the companies Swapmania and Auggi.
- Guillermo Fernandes: Originally from Venezuela, currently resides in Miami, Florida. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from Bentley University and is currently a wealth manager and financial consultant at one of the most prestigious community banks in the State of Florida.
- Val Mack: A Cornell University graduate, obtained her bachelor's and master's degree in Information Science. With vast experience in web interfaces and programming, she founded the company Festival Labs LLC.
- David Sasson: obtained his bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the prestigious Macaulay Honors College and his master's degree in Health Data Science from Harvard University. He worked as researcher for the MIT Critical Data center and currently works as a Data Scientist for GeneCentrix Inc.
- Marco Berlot: After obtaining his bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Politecnico di Torino in Italy, Marco obtained his master's degree in Computer Science from Cornell University. He currently works as a Software Engineer at Turbonomic.
- Anonymous: Mathematician from the European Union currently working in computer science.

For additional information, please refer to our website opendemic.org or find us on social media under the username @opendemic. Please feel free to contact us directly at teamopendemic@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Guillermo Fernandes