

# Volunteered Geographic Information Generates New Spatial Understandings of Covid-19 in Fortaleza

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## ABSTRACT

In this essay we analyze the spatial distribution of Covid-19 in the city of Fortaleza, Northeastern Brazil, using participatory mapping techniques. We then evaluate why people are not adequately fulfilling social isolation.

**KEYWORDS:** *volunteered geographic information (VGI), Covid-19, Northeastern Brazil, Fortaleza*

## INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 was first diagnosed in Brazil on February 26, 2020, having been introduced in São Paulo by a traveler returning from Italy. By April 15, 26,112 people in Brazil had tested positive for the virus and 1,590 people had died from it. In Fortaleza, Brazil's fifth largest city with the population of 2.5 million, the first three Covid-19 cases were confirmed on March 15, 2020, in travelers returning from

overseas (Redação O Povo, 2020a). By April 14, Fortaleza reported 1,713 cases and 103 fatalities (Freitas, 2020a). On the same day, the Ceará Secretary of Health reported that the public health system had collapsed, warning that the state no longer had unoccupied intensive care hospital beds and that only five days of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) remained in stock for health care workers (Redação O Povo, 2020b).<sup>1</sup> In a meet-

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