



# Preserve and Protect the Integrity of COVID-19 Data Collection and Analysis

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Public health professionals, policymakers, and the general public are turning to data science to understand the COVID-19 pandemic and inform how the global community responds. Accurate and timely data must continue to fuel our public health response and economic recovery efforts.

Data professionals around the world are working tirelessly to ensure the appropriate collection, analysis, and evaluation tools are available to guide us through this crisis. Their work is paying off. Insights generated by data professionals are informing how we can slow the spread of COVID-19, re-open our cities and towns, and prepare our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.

Unfortunately, data collection and the analytical process have also come under political pressure across the globe. Data professionals have been fired for refusing to tailor analyses for political purposes and resisting pressure to stop collecting key data.

As a leader in the global data movement, data.org believes that efforts to put pressure on data professionals to suppress or manipulate information are unacceptable and will leave us without the insights we need to effectively fight COVID-19. Lack of access to timely and accurate data will prolong the public health crisis, increase suffering, and hinder economic recovery.

Today, we are coming together with our global partners to issue a **call to preserve the integrity of COVID data collection and analysis.**

- ❑ First, we call on policymakers and governments to respect the independence of data collection and analysis processes. Efforts to bend data or unduly suppress data to serve a political purpose are shortsighted and will lead to dire outcomes.



- Second, we call on data professionals to defend the integrity of the data you collect and the analyses you produce. Your data science skill gives you the power to guide data collection processes and set analysis priorities. Now is the time to use that power to serve the public interests.

In solidarity,

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**data.org** envisions a world that uses the power of data science to tackle society's greatest challenges and improves lives across the globe. To that end, data.org serves as a platform for partnerships to build the field of data science for social impact.