1. **Title:** Lost in Lockdown? The Effect of Social Distancing and Quarantine Policies on Mental Health in Germany

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3. **Abstract:** The German federal states imposed differential social-distancing and quarantine policies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, Covid-19 mitigation measures can directly affect health and quality of life. We exploit spatial and temporal variation in mitigation policies on the federal level to assess how social-distancing and quarantine policies affect anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.

We use data from Germany’s biggest online and telephone counseling crisis hotline (TelefonSeelsorge) to quantify changes in sentiments and thereby obtain an early assessment of the Covid-19 policies. As official statistics on actual suicides become available, we will verify and compare our estimates by analyzing the excess number of suicides occurring in the year 2020 in a spatial RDD framework.

4. **Data description:** Detailed data on state-level mitigation measures, crisis hotline calls, suicide data from the German Federal Statistical Office.

5. **JEL codes for the project:** I12,I3

6. **Key-words:** Suicide, Covid-19, Corona, Lockdown, Mental health, Social Distancing