1. Title: More than Words: Leaders’ Speech and Risky Behavior During a Pandemic

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3. Abstract
How do political leader's words and actions affect people's behavior? We address this question in the context of Brazil by combining electoral data and geo-localized mobile phone data for more than 60 million devices throughout the entire country. We find that after Brazil's president publicly and emphatically dismisses the risks associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic and advises against isolation, social distancing measures of citizens in pro-government localities reduce relative to those places in which his support is weaker, while pre-event effects are insignificant. The impact is large and robust to different empirical model specifications. We also find suggestive evidence that this impact is driven by localities with relatively higher levels of media penetration.

4. Data description
Social Distancing Index: based on 60 M smartphones data (compiled by the company In Loco). It measures the proportion of mobile phones that lefted their homes (radius: 450 meters) in a given day and municipality
Electoral data: votes for President Bolsonaro in the 2018 election (Tribunal Superior Eleitoral) at the municipal level

5. JEL codes for the project
D1, I31, Z13

6. Key-words
Health, Coronavirus, Leadership, Persuasion, Risky Behavior