Q: We are considering a hybrid machine learning/modeling approach to this topic. To what extent can we assume that there exist models for the process, and at what level of fidelity?
A: Proposers are free to incorporate existing models into their approach. However, proposers should not expect that any models will be provided by the government.

Q: What specific data sources and data elements will be provided to the Phase I awardee (USG, public, and/or commercial)?
A: No government data will be provided. Performers are expected to appropriate their own data.

Q: There are several significant/major factors with which it is difficult to collect data. For example, immunity is arguably a significant factor in epidemiology. However, it is nearly impossible to derive and collect immunological data. Will DARPA provide these data, or will the awardee be expected to obtain and/or procure these data?
A: No government data will be provided. Performers are expected to appropriate their own data.

Q: You are requesting "accurate predictions" from statistical models that do not support such extrapolation. What are your expectations and standards for accuracy?
A: Accuracy is expected to be "operationally useful". The BAA provided an accuracy expectation for the COVID-19 infection prediction. For other applications, performers should cite the accuracy standard commonly expected by the application domain.

Q: Epidemiology data, collected as a dependent occurrence of other events and not collected randomly, naturally present bias into the data. How will the data provided to the awardee be treated before it is received?
A: No government data will be provided. Performers are expected to appropriate their own data.

Q: The TOPIC OVERVIEW states that DARPA is interested in developing analytic tools that can provide the ability to make "accurate predictions" of rapidly unfolding, complex, dynamical processes based on direct, local observables, over a short time-scale. We would like to have a clearer description to what "accurate predictions" is referring. Are the desired predictions global predictions or predictions, as they differ, across divided, demographic strata? Certainly, a global Infection Rate is not interesting, nor useful, to many specific demographics.
A: Please read the BAA description: "The focus will be on the ability to provide useful information to operators at the onset of a crisis when little or no historical data is available and/or when strong feedback/intervention renders historical data ineffective."

Q: What is meant by "local" observables? What is the desired scope of the data gather?
A: The definition of "local observations" is up to the performers and their chosen applications.
Q: The topic mentions that our solution should not rely on extensive collateral data repositories, but is it ok to take data from past outbreaks in an attempt to train our models?
A: Yes, taking data from past outbreaks to train models is ok.

Q: To what extent should solutions be specialized towards epidemic/pandemic modeling vs. general non-stationary, non-linear systems?
A: Yes, Performers could suggest other applications.

Q: Are you interested in spatio-temporal non-stationary processes?
A: Yes.