

Virus Video Game Sees 'very High' Player Numbers In Wake Of Coronavirus Outbreak

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Plague Inc., a digital game about creating and spreading contagious pathogens around the world, has seen an increase in players during the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

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The company that made the game, Ndemic Creations, reported on Twitter Friday that the game's website, and its servers for multiplayer games, were struggling under very high player numbers.

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Hey - our website and servers for multiplayer and custom scenarios are struggling to cope with very high player numbers. We are working hard and things should be running again by 4pm UK time. Sorry!

- Plague Inc. / Rebel Inc.

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The company also released a statement on Thursday about the coronavirus, calling it "deeply disturbing".

"Whenever there is an outbreak of disease, we see an increase in players, as people seek to find out more about how diseases spread and to understand the complexities of viral outbreaks," the statement said.

According to China, the new coronavirus has killed 81 and infected over 2700.

The company warned players not to put trust in the game as an accurate depiction of how the coronavirus will spread and, instead, provided a link to the World Health Organization.

"However, please remember that Plague Inc. is a game, not a scientific model and that the current coronavirus outbreak is a very real situation which is impacting a huge number of people," the statement said. "We would always recommend that players get their information directly from local and global health authorities.

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In the game, the player creates and names a fictional virus, bacteria or another pathogen and tries to spread it around the world. As the game progresses, the player can choose how their

virus spreads and what symptoms their virus causes. The game was released in 2012 and became the 15th most popular paid iPhone game that year.

Many of the game's players find it particularly difficult to get their virus to spread to Greenland and Madagascar. Spiderman's blog about games on social media have joked that the two countries will be safe from the coronavirus.

I play a lot of Plague Inc. on my phone.

So I'm pretty sure the Corona virus is going to mutate organ failure in a few days.

Only Madagascar is safe. Maybe Greenland.

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