# Tec and U. of Edinburgh seek to contribute to COVID-19 strategy

Scientists from the Tec’s School of Engineering and Sciences have performed optimal allocation calculations to find the areas of Mexico that are most vulnerable to the pandemic.
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**Tec data science** specialists are working on a project funded by the **University of Edinburgh** to **develop algorithms** that contribute to a more equitable distribution strategy for COVID-19 diagnostic tests in Mexico.

**Yasmín Águeda Ríos**, a researcher at the **School of Engineering and Sciences** (EIC), indicated that the **intention of the project is to visualize** the municipalities in the country at highest risk during the pandemic via a **web platform.**

This was achieved through **optimal allocation calculations** developed by **EIC** scientists and posted on the **web**, taking into account values such as: demographic density, poverty index (Coneval), COVID data, and hospital capacity for each municipality.

*“Most tests in Mexico are distributed within large cities. As a result, it is possible that many low-income populations do not have access to this diagnostic method or to a nearby hospital with testing equipment,”* said the professor from **the Tec’s Monterrey campus**.

The project seeks to provide information obtained using a scientific methodology, **so it can be used by those decision makers** implementing the pandemic strategy at different levels of government in Mexico.

> *“It is possible that many low-income populations in Mexico do not have access to a diagnostic method.”*

*“We hope that this tool can help provide people in economically disadvantaged regions with more opportunities to be access protection against COVID-19,”* said **Yasmín Águeda Ríos**.

The researcher from the **School of Engineering and Sciences said that** the platform was **made available to the public** on August 10, and is **constantly updated**. A second stage of the project is involved with the **development of statistics** and data validation.

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