

# COVID-19 media surveillance

8 April 2020; 09:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 180 thousand articles per day on Tuesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

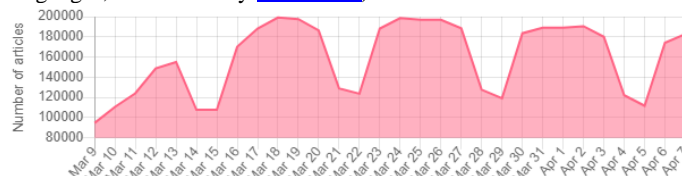


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)

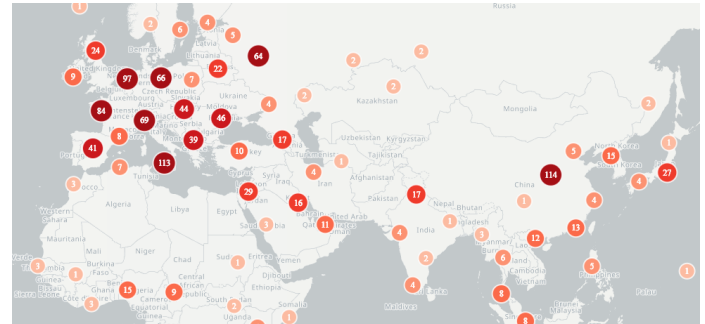


Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing large clusters of media reports on Italy, France, Spain, Germany, the UK, Russia, China, South Korea and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



## Headlines

- USA: President Trump [made misleading claims about the WHO and his record on the coronavirus threatening to withhold funding](#); [New York state suffers largest single-day increase in deaths](#); President Trump [removed independent watchdog for 2 trillion USD coronavirus fund](#) upending oversight panel
- Canada: Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau said Canada won't retaliate against US for banning exports of N95 masks](#)
- Spain: [after four-day fall, daily deaths rise to 743](#)
- Italy: [curve of new cases is flattening](#) with 1,941 new cases on Monday; [plan to reopen the country in two steps – first companies then free movement](#)
- France: [fewer cases while number of deaths rises](#); further [lockdown measures have been announced](#)
- Germany: [rise in new cases bringing the total to 107,663](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [22,194 confirmed cases in Belgium as repatriation efforts started](#); [2,970 cases and 44 deaths in Luxembourg](#)
- Poland: [concerns about presidential election by post in May](#)
- EU: [Commissioner Vera Jourova](#) complained about [disinformation on COVID-19 from Russia](#); [sudden resignation of ERC president](#) stirs heated dispute over motives
- UK: Prime Minister [Boris Johnson stays in intensive care unit](#); [Russia accused of spreading disinformation](#); [Methadone to be handed out without prescription](#) during crisis
- Turkey has [world's fastest rising rate of infection](#)
- Brazil: 12,056 confirmed cases while [underreporting of suspected cases is claimed to be 'gigantic'](#)
- Uruguay: Passengers to be evacuated from [cruise ship Greg Mortimer after almost 60% test positive](#)
- South Africa has the [highest number of cases in Africa](#)
- India again allows [export of antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine](#) touted for coronavirus
- South Korea: 53 new cases reported
- Japan: at least [140 new cases in Tokyo](#) as state of emergency declared; [deep recession expected as ¥108 trillion rescue package](#) approved
- China: [Wuhan lockdown ended](#) while 62 new confirmed cases were reported; [former Chinese property executive who criticised President Xi is under investigation](#)
- Economy: [6.7% of working hours will be lost](#) globally according to ILO



## Twitter

The following news were found among the most mentioned/retweeted items:

- New White house press secretary said a month ago that the coronavirus would never spread to the U.S. ([slate](#))
- Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel ([politico](#))
- Navarro memos warning of mass coronavirus death circulated in January ([axios](#))

The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, CNN, Politico, the Guardian, Youtube, Fox News and the Washington Post.

El Diario, El País, ABC, El Correo, El Mundo and RT (Spanish Version), and Le Parisien and Le Monde were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

## ” *Extracted Quotes*

### **Donald Trump (USA, President):**

"The W.H.O. really blew it. For some reason, funded largely by the United States, yet very China centric. We will be giving that a good look. Fortunately I rejected their advice on keeping our borders open to China early on. Why did they give us such a faulty recommendation?"

### **Jason Kenney (Canada, Premier of Alberta province):**

"It reminds me of what happened in 1939 and 1940 when Canada was part of the fight against global fascism — the United States sat out the first two or three years and actually initially refused to even provide supplies to Canada and the United Kingdom that was leading the fight at the time."



## *Fact Check*

### **Fact checked: coronavirus is not dangerous**

- Fact checkers report that in the video showing medical personnel adjusting a ventilator on a mannequin, there is nothing to suggest that it is supposed to show an actual COVID-19 patient on a ventilator ([reuters](#), [leadstories](#)).
- A video filmed by a German blogger claiming to show the empty corridors and rooms of Charité University Hospital's COVID-19 unit is debunked and said to show a different structure ([correctiv](#)).

### **Fact checked: treatment**

- There is no definitive evidence that chloroquine cures COVID-19 ([bbc](#)).
- Though an initial lab study in Australia has suggested anti-parasitic drug Ivermectin could show promise as a treatment against COVID-19, it is important to point out that the results are from an in vitro study and there are no in vivo data yet ([open](#)).

### **Fact checked: conspiracy theories**

- Experts dismiss claims that 5G wireless technology created the novel coronavirus ([afp](#)) or aids the spread of the disease by suppressing the immune system ([theguardian](#)).