

COVID-19 media surveillance

22 April 2021; 22:30 weekly brief

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) remains a major news topic, with over 65 thousand articles per day (in 70 languages, as detected by [EMM/MEDISYS](#)).

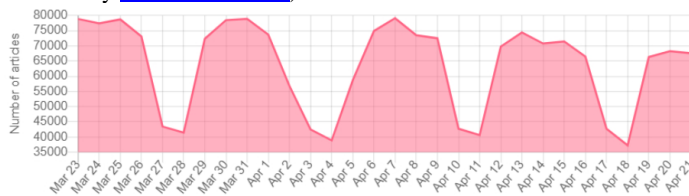


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing clusters of media reports (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- India sees [world's highest daily cases amid oxygen shortage](#) as [health system breaks down](#)
- US: President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that [goal of 200 million vaccine shots during 100 days has been met](#)
- EU states begin using [single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid vaccine](#)
- Brazil reached [14 million Covid-19 cases and 378 thousand deaths](#)
- Spain: [B.1.1.7 variant accounts for more than 80% of cases in Spain, but has not overwhelmed hospitals](#)
- France plans to [lift Covid-19 travel restrictions and ease national lockdown on 2 May](#)
- Germany: [Federal Council approves Infection Protection Act](#)
- Italy: [government approves reopening decree](#)
- Netherlands: [coronavirus infections rise ahead of lockdown easing](#)
- Belgium: Coronavirus [reproduction rate over 1 again](#) in Belgium; [masks banned in Canada flooded the European market](#)
- Luxembourg: researchers report [rising viral loads in Luxembourg sewage treatment plants](#)
- Norway to [lend 216,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses to Sweden and Iceland](#)
- UK discovered [55 new cases of double-mutated Indian variant B.1.617](#); People in England could get [Covid passports for foreign travel by 17 May](#)
- Israel crosses [milestone of 5 million fully vaccinated](#) against COVID-19
- New Zealand: Analysis of nearly [10,000 blood samples points to extremely few undetected cases of Covid-19](#) in New Zealand
- China reports [six new imported mainland COVID-19 cases](#)
- Japan prepares for [COVID-19 state of emergency in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo starting on Sunday](#); Tokyo [Olympics torch relay has first positive COVID-19 case](#)



Twitter

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

- "India posts world record COVID cases with oxygen running out" ([reuters](#))
- "Argentina is experiencing the worst moment since the pandemic began," said Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti" ([lanacion](#))
- "Ted Nugent tests positive for coronavirus after calling pandemic a 'scam'. 'I thought I was dying,' musician said" ([independent](#))
- "Ten scientific reasons in support of airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2" ([thelancet](#))

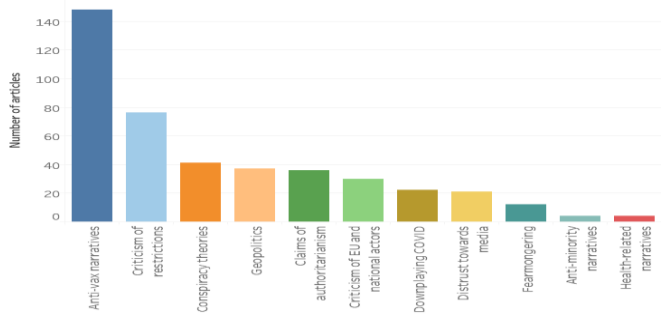
The most mentioned English sources were OP India, the New York Times, India Today and the Washington Post.

El Destape, El Diario, Clarin and El País, and Francetvinfo and Midi Libre were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.



Misinformation

431 articles from unverified sources were selected forming 11 supernarratives over the last week:



The treemap shows the narratives and subnarratives associated with anti-vax articles. The colours represent the narratives, while the text indicates each subnarrative. The bigger the size of the box, the higher the number of articles tagged as that narrative and subnarrative.



Fact Check

- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID-19 vaccine trials have not yet been completed and therefore the results cannot be peer-reviewed, reporting that while the data collection and analysis are ongoing in order to allow up to two years of follow-up on participants, the COVID-19 vaccine trials have been published in peer-reviewed journals ([fullfact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a video featuring an American doctor making dubious claims about COVID-19 vaccines and treatments at a forum hosted by Idaho's lieutenant governor. The doctor claims mRNA vaccines cause cancer and autoimmune diseases, but the lead author of the paper on which he bases that claim says there is no evidence mRNA vaccines cause those ailments ([factcheck.org](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that medical authorities are going door-to-door to force people to get COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario, Canada ([afpfactcheck](#)).