

# COVID-19 media surveillance

1 July 2020; 08:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 80 thousand articles per day on Tuesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

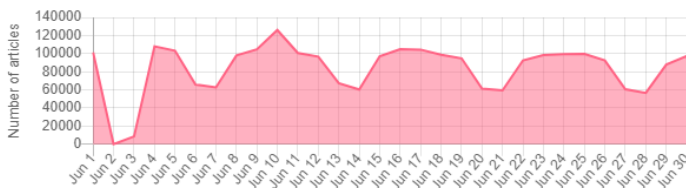


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS; missing data on 2-3 June)



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



## Headlines

- USA: more than [47,000 new cases reported on Tuesday](#) - the biggest one-day spike since the start of the pandemic as NIAID Director Fauci warned that number could soon double and deaths could reach a "disturbing" level
- Brazil's [death toll nears 60,000 while confirmed cases top 1.4 million](#)
- UK: [full local lockdown in Leicester tightened as cases rise](#)
- Spain: [Central bank announces its medium-term plan for an economy that contracted 5.2% in the first quarter](#)
- Italy: [study of north Italian town of Vò finds 40% of cases had no symptoms](#)
- Germany: [Reproductive number at 0.83 as 466 new cases are reported](#)
- Ireland: [four new cases linked to foreign travel reported last week](#)
- Belgium [shortens mandatory quarantine after Covid-19 exposure](#) on request if second PCR or diagnosis is carried out
- Luxembourg: [cases jump by 43 as lockdown easing doubts grow](#)
- Australia: [health experts 'very concerned' about outbreak in Victoria state](#)
- New Zealand: [no new cases for second consecutive day](#)
- South Africa's [cases surpass 150,000](#)
- India adds [over 18,000 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours](#)
- South Korea [weighs listing churches as 'high risk' venues on the same list with nightclubs, hostess bars and karaoke rooms](#)
- Japan: Tokyo will [move away from numerical targets to contain COVID-19 and rely more on the advice of a committee of experts](#) to control the novel coronavirus and avoid another economic slowdown; [COVID-19 pushes Japanese business sentiment down to lowest level in 11 years](#)
- China [reports three new coronavirus cases in Beijing on June 30](#) vs 19 a day earlier



## Twitter

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

- "Houston protesters begin to fall ill with coronavirus after marching for George Floyd" ([newsweek](#))
- "European Union bars travelers from U.S. citing coronavirus concerns. The move is a sign of how the U.S. is seen by Europe and elsewhere as a global coronavirus hotbed." ([nbcnews](#))
- "'We're surging again.' Doctors, nurses angry as coronavirus strains California hospitals" ([latimes](#))
- "A national mask mandate could save the U.S. economy \$1 trillion, Goldman Sachs says" ([forbes](#))
- "The US has 4% of the world's population but 25% of its coronavirus cases" ([cnn](#))
- Most people with Coronavirus won't spread it. Why Do a Few Infect Many? Growing evidence shows most infected people aren't spreading the virus. But whether you become a superspreader probably depends more on circumstance than biology. ([nytimes](#))

The hashtag #leicester trended due to the full local lockdown in Leicester ([bbc](#)).

The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, CNN, the Washington Post, Reuters, CBS news and NPR.

Infobae, RT (Spanish Version), Antena3 and El Diario, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

## ” *Extracted Quotes*

### **Anthony Fauci (USA, NIAID Director):**

"Clearly we're not in total control"; "I would not be surprised if we go up to 100,000 [cases] a day if this does not turn around".

## *Fact Check*

### **Fact checked: claims about public authorities**

- German fact checkers debunk claims that the Bundestag has passed a law that extends all coronavirus restriction until the end of March 2022, reporting that the Bundestag has not passed such a law ([correctiv](#)).

### **Fact checked: health-related claims**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that since sunlight can kill the coronavirus, wearing sunblock is a bad idea during the coronavirus pandemic, reporting that scientists are still studying whether ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun destroys the coronavirus and - whether it does or not - it is important to protect one's skin from the sun's UV radiation by wearing sunscreen ([nationalacademies](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that according to a research study, nearly 99% of COVID-19 patients who are vitamin D deficient die, reporting that while a study from Indonesia did claim to show this, there are problems with the study methods that mean it does not prove this is the case, and that the paper has now been removed by the authors from the online research library it appeared on ([fullfact](#)).

### **Fact checked: anti-vax narratives**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told the WHO "Council on Eugenics" that vaccines could be used to control the human population, reporting that Kissinger never said this, the meeting never happened, and the Council on Eugenics does not exist ([facta](#)).

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

- Fact checkers debunk claims that Johns Hopkins University and the Gates Foundation have been aware of the COVID-19 pandemic for some time, devised by world leaders to wipe out 65 million people ([stopfake](#)).