

# COVID-19 media surveillance

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Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 140 thousand articles per day on Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

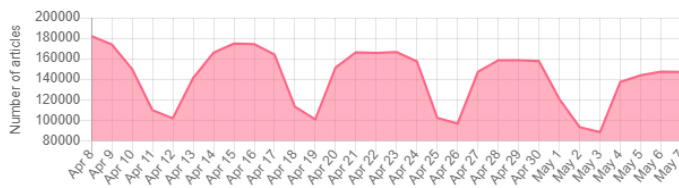


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



## Headlines

- USA: [more than 1.25 million cases and over 75,000 Covid-19 related deaths have been recorded](#); [one of President Trump's personal valets has tested positive for coronavirus](#); US senators [propose renaming street outside Chinese embassy after Wuhan whistleblower](#)
- UK: Prime Minister Johnson will give a [speech to the nation on Sunday setting out a road map for the UK](#)
- Spain: [daily coronavirus deaths in Spain fall to 213, but total now exceeds 26,000](#); Madrid regional health [official quits over plan to accelerate easing of lockdown restrictions](#)
- Italy's government will inject [at least 3 billion euros into new Alitalia; Friuli Venezia Giulia and Bolzano province will partially reopen on 11 May](#)
- France will [gradually lift lockdown restrictions starting on 11 May](#), primary school and most businesses will reopen but cafes and restaurants will stay shut
- Germany's new [coronavirus cases rise the most in a week with 1,268 additional infections](#)
- Belgium: [Brussels contact tracers aim to reach 1,000 people a day](#) starting on 11 May
- Luxembourg: [easing of lockdown measures will start on 11 May](#) as 8 new cases were reported
- Poland: [pandemic forces Poland to delay presidential election](#)
- Russia is becoming one of Europe's coronavirus hot spots as [coronavirus cases rise by more than 10,000 for sixth straight day](#)
- Iran's [coronavirus cases rise anew as Friday prayers are set to resume](#)
- India: [number of cases has crossed the 56,000-mark with 3,390 new cases being recorded in 24 hours](#)
- Brazil has the [most cases and deaths in Latin America and these are probably substantial underestimates](#); Economy minister [Guedes warns of economic toll of control measures](#)
- Singapore, which now has the highest number of coronavirus cases in South-east Asia, has seen [a surge in cases in recent weeks reaching 21,000 cases](#).
- South Korea [on alert over yet another cluster infection amid eased social distancing](#) with 12 new cases on Thursday and 13 new cases on Friday
- Japan [considers lifting state of emergency for 17 prefectures](#) that have had no new cases in the past week



## Twitter

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

- "Revealed: the secret report that gave ministers warning of care home coronavirus crisis" ([theguardian](#))
- "Travel From New York City Seeded Wave of U.S. Outbreaks" ([nytimes](#))
- "One of Trump's personal valets has tested positive for coronavirus" ([cnn](#))
- "Coronavirus survivors banned from joining the military" ([militarytimes](#))
- "Customer shot a McDonald's employee after being told to leave due to coronavirus restrictions, police say" ([cnn](#))

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

El Diario, Infobae, El País, Okdiario, CNN (Spanish version), Clarin and RT (Spanish version) and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

## ” *Extracted Quotes*

**Antonio Guterres (United Nations, Secretary General):**

"The pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scaremongering"; "Anti-foreigner sentiment has surged online and in the streets. Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories have spread and Covid-19-related anti-Muslim attacks have occurred."

**Lars Schaade (Germany, Vice-President of the Robert-Koch-Institute):**

"It's clear this virus cannot be eradicated in Germany"; "There's consensus on that, at least until there's a vaccine or a treatment. We will have to try to build this virus into our everyday lives, changing our behaviour to reduce its transmission. We find ourselves in a new normality."

**Hans Kluge (WHO, Regional Director for Europe):**

"Although data is scarce, member states are reporting up to a 60% increase in emergency calls by women subjected to violence by their intimate partners in April this year compared to last".

## *Fact Check*

**Fact checked: prevention**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that alkaline foods and vitamins prevent COVID-19 ([boatos](#)).
- Similarly, they debunk claims that drinking seawater prevents COVID-19, pointing out that drinking seawater is actually harmful as it could cause diarrhea and gastrointestinal infections ([colombiacheck](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the prolonged use of face masks causes hypoxia ([afp](#)).

**Fact checked: fear mongering**

- Fact checkers debunk a photo claiming to show dead people on the streets of Ecuador - the photo actually shows a "die in" protest by environmental activists in Germany ([afp](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk Spanish-language claims that 232 children died of COVID-19 in Italy in one day, reporting that since the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in Italy on 30 January, there have been only two deaths in the pediatric population, and in both cases the children had previous pathologies ([afp](#)).

**Fact checked: downplaying COVID-19**

- Fact checkers debunk a viral Tweet attributed to Brazilian General Augusto Heleno claiming that both he and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro had COVID-19 and barely showed any symptoms, while the media treat COVID-19 as "something that will end life on the planet". Fact checkers report that the Tweet did not originate from General Heleno's official Twitter account and that while the General did test positive to COVID-19, Bolsonaro maintains his tests came back negative ([beatos](#), [folha](#)).