

COVID-19 media surveillance

8 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 75 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

- US: [171 million vaccine doses administered](#); first cases of [P.1](#) and [B.1351](#) variants detected in Los Angeles
- Canada has [triple the number of cases of the P.1 variant than the U.S.](#)
- Brazil: President Bolsonaro [rejected calls for new lockdown despite surge](#) with 4,000 daily deaths on Tuesday
- Spain: in [Catalonia, Madrid, La Rioja and Melilla, Covid-19 patients occupy more than 35% of all ICU beds](#)
- France: [90 percent of adults will need to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity according to Pasteur Institute study](#)
- Ireland: [10 cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed among the 419 people in mandatory hotel quarantine](#)
- Germany intends to [purchase Sputnik V vaccine](#)
- Italy: [anti-lockdown protests in Rome clashed with police on Tuesday](#)
- Turkey reported [highest daily COVID-19 cases since pandemic began](#)
- Israel: [Serious COVID-19 cases fall below 300 for first time since early December, only 0.5% of tests come back positive](#)
- Iran sets [COVID-19 infection record for third consecutive day](#)
- India reported [more than 100,000 new daily cases](#) for third time this week
- African [Union drops plans to buy additional AstraZeneca vaccine](#) from India's Serum Institute
- Chile authorizes [CanSino vaccine for emergency use](#)
- Peru: [40% of COVID-19 cases in Lima are the P.1 variant](#)
- New Zealand [suspends travel from India](#) after jump in Covid-19 cases
- South Korea shows signs of [fourth wave of infections](#)
- China reported a [cluster of cases in the city of Ruili near Myanmar border](#)
- Japan [denies considering vaccine priority for Olympic athletes](#) despite spike of new infections



Twitter

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

- "Brazil has become South America's superspreader event" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "Science Brief: SARS-CoV-2 and Surface (Fomite) Transmission for Indoor Community Environments" ([cdc](#), [elpais](#))
- "Coronavirus vaccine - weekly summary of Yellow Card reporting, Updated 8 April 2021" ([gov-uk](#))

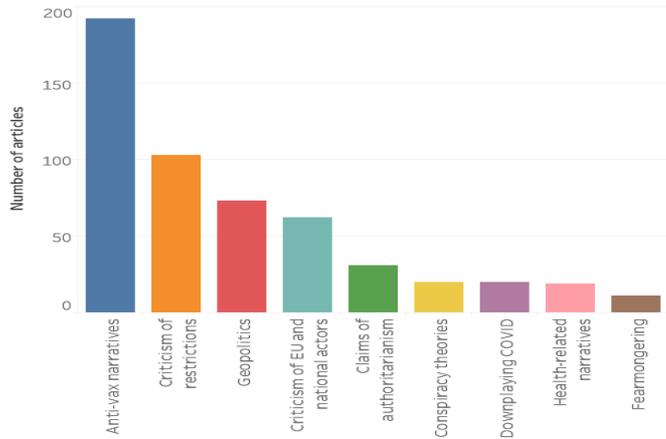
The most mentioned English sources were Reuters, the New York Times, AP news and CNN.

El Diario, Infobae, Latinus and El Pais, and Francetvinfo and 20minutes were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

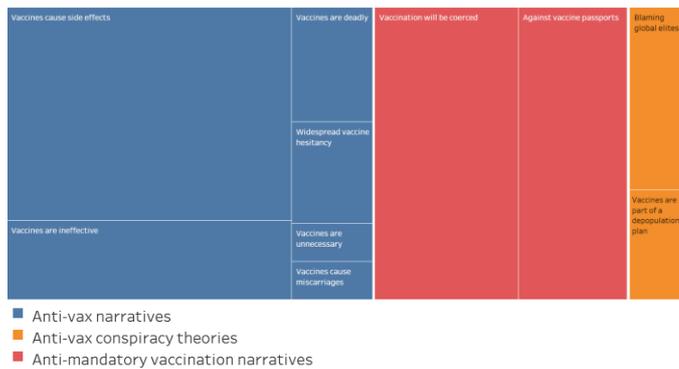


Misinformation

531 articles from unverified sources were selected forming 9 supernarratives over the last week:



The following 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

- US fact checkers address claims that according to CDC data, there have been nearly twice as many vaccine-related deaths in 2021 (1,755) than in the past decade (994), reporting that while the CDC maintains a Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), anyone can report possible side effects to a vaccine to VAERS - these reports are not verified ([politifact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID-19 vaccines caused a 366-percent increase in miscarriages, reporting that while the claims are based on UK data, UK officials say the figures have been taken out of context ([politifact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a video shared over 5,000 times on social media in which an Austrian journalist claims that vaccines are more dangerous than COVID-19 itself ([afp](#)).