

COVID-19 media surveillance

2 July 2020; 17:30

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 Wednesday (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: [At least five states – Arizona, California, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas – reported a record number of new cases Wednesday](#)
- Brazil: [Red Cross criticized US and Brazil response and decried the politicization of the pandemic, warning that the "divisive" responses by leaders in countries such as Brazil and the United States was taking its toll](#)
- UK: ['No obvious source' of Leicester outbreak](#)
- Spain [reopens border with Portugal after three-month closure](#)
- Ireland sees [rise in percentage of cases coming from international travel](#)
- Sweden: [cases in Sweden surpass 70,000 after another 947 recorded](#)
- Belgium: [Belgian border closed to non-Europeans until 7 July](#)
- Luxembourg: [46 new confirmed coronavirus cases in Wednesday update](#)
- Australia: Victoria state [records 77 new cases and jump in community transmission](#)
- New Zealand: [Two new cases are in managed isolation](#)
- South Africa [may reinstate lockdown as cases rise](#)
- Indonesia sees [record-equaling rise in cases](#)
- India's [cases cross 600,000](#)
- South Korea: [Gwangju registered 22 new cases with a recent surge in infections related to small gatherings in churches and a Buddhist temple](#)
- Japan: [Tokyo reports 107 coronavirus cases, highest in two months](#)
- China reports [3 new confirmed cases](#)



Twitter

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

- "Official U.S. coronavirus death toll is 'a substantial undercount' of actual tally, Yale study finds" ([cnbc](#))
- "Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech shows positive results" ([cnbc](#))
- "Coronavirus autopsies: A story of 38 brains, 87 lungs and 42 hearts. What we've learned from the dead that could help the living" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "Restaurant dining rooms, wineries, card rooms to close for at least three weeks in 19 California counties" ([latimes](#))

The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, CNN, the Washington Post, CNBC and NBC news.

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Tedros Adhanom (WHO, Director-General):

"Find, isolate, test and care for every case, trace and quarantine every contact, equip and train health workers and educate and empower communities to protect themselves and others. Not testing alone. Not physical distancing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not masks alone. Do it all."

Olivier Véran (France, Minister of Health):

"For ten consecutive weeks, the number of cases has been decreasing and all the indicators show that the situation is under control. ... The spread of the virus remains contained within specific zones".

Fact Check

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk a viral social media post claiming that people in China have stopped going to hospitals for COVID-19 treatment and instead "kill the virus with heat" through "steam inhalation", "hot gargles" and "hot tea", reporting that Chinese media continue to report on the hospitalisation of COVID-19 patients and that experts warn that the purported remedies described in the post do not cure the virus and are potentially harmful to human health ([afpfactcheck](#)).

Fact checked: anti-vax claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID is an acronym for "certificate of vaccination identification" and the virus is part of a plan concocted by the global elites to vaccinate and thus monitor the world population ([cekfakta](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that those who get the flu shot are more likely to die from COVID-19, reporting that the claim is allegedly based on a study conducted in Spain, but the author of the study himself has stated that is not what the study says ([butac](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk a video showing a Brazilian MP looking upset at a field hospital, claiming that the MP discovered that a hospital meant to treat COVID-19 patients was empty and was upset that the government had inflated COVID-19 figures. Fact checkers report that the video shows the MP inspecting a field hospital on the day it was supposed to open and getting upset when finding out the hospital was still under construction ([afpfactuel](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Nobel laureate Denis Mukwege resigned as head of a coronavirus task force in the Democratic Republic Congo because he had been asked to inflate COVID-19 numbers, reporting that Mukwege blamed organisational problems, outpaced strategy and slow testing when he resigned from his post ([agencialupa](#)).