

COVID-19 media surveillance

2 April 2020; 09:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 180 thousand articles per day on Wednesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

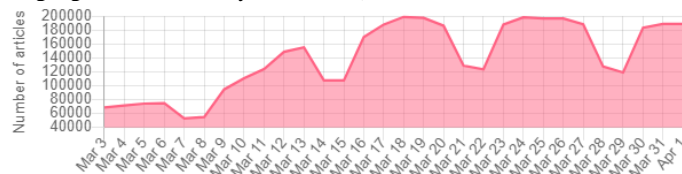


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- USA: [New York City death toll passes 1,300; federal stockpile of personal protective equipment is nearly depleted; US intelligence accuses China of playing down crisis; Americans purchasing record-breaking numbers of guns; cruise ship Zaandam on route to Fort Lauderdale; nearly 100 cases onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt](#)
- Italy: [110,574 cases and 13,155 deaths](#) reported on 1 April 18:00; [lockdown measures until 13 April](#) followed by second phase of measures; [antibody testing discussed for return to work](#)
- Spain: [more than 100,000 confirmed cases and 9,000 deaths; drop in intensive care patients](#)
- France: [more than 4,000 deaths; more patients transferred from Paris to regional hospitals](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [13,964 confirmed cases and 828 deaths reported in total in Belgium; 2,319 cases and 29 deaths in total in Luxembourg](#)
- UK: [UN climate conference Cop26 postponed until 2021; only 2,000 NHS staff members have been tested](#)
- Brazil: [first indigenous case of coronavirus in Amazon; 6,931 confirmed cases and 244 deaths](#)
- Iran's [official death toll passes 3,000](#)
- India: [cases rise amid fears true figure much higher](#)
- Philippines [president Duterte orders police to shoot dead residents who break quarantine](#)
- South Korea: [slight decline in new cases but clusters and imported cases on the rise](#)
- Japan: [government will distribute reusable cloth face masks to roughly 50 million households](#)
- China [Jia county under lockdown amid fear of second wave of cases](#)



Twitter

The following news were found among the most retweeted items:

- China concealed extent of virus outbreak, U.S. intelligence says ([bloomberg](#))
- 90-year-old woman dies from coronavirus after asking doctors to save ventilator for younger patients ([complex](#))
- "The campaign panicked": inside Trump's decision to back off of his easter coronavirus miracle ([vanityfair](#))
- Protective gear in national stockpile is nearly depleted, DHS officials say ([washingtonpost](#))
- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube remove posts from Bolsonaro ([bloomberg](#))

The most retweeted English sources were the New York Times, the Washington Post, Politico and Bloomberg.

Russia Today (Spanish Version), Infobae and El Diario and Le Monde, Ouest France and Le Parisien were among the most retweeted Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO, Director-general):

"As we enter the fourth month since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic I'm deeply concerned about the rapid escalation and global spread of infection"; "Over the past five weeks, we have witnessed a near exponential growth in the number of new cases, reaching almost every country"; "The number of deaths has more than doubled in the past week. In the next few days we will reach one million confirmed cases and 50,000 deaths."

Dr Antony Fauci (USA, Director of NIAID):

"The idea of getting a much more broad, community-wide use of masks, outside of the health care setting, is under very active discussion at the task force. The CDC group is looking at that very carefully."

Fact Check

Fact checked: anti-EU sentiment

- It is not true that Italians are taking down EU flags en masse. Posts from a few individuals were used to offer a manipulated version of reality ([raskrinkavanje](#)).

Fact checked: anti-Muslim sentiment

- A video of a group of boys licking utensils is going viral with the claim that it shows Muslims trying to spread coronavirus. That is not true - it is an old video ([thequint](#), [boomlive](#)).

Fact checked: prevention

- There is no evidence that drinking hot water, gargling with salt water and not eating ice cream will prevent coronavirus infections ([efe](#)).
- There is no evidence that assuming high doses of vitamin C cures COVID-19 ([open](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- It is not true that the 2020 novel coronavirus pandemic fits a pattern of viral outbreaks that occur every 100 years. The infographic that purports to support that claim ignores other epidemics that do not fit the assumed pattern ([boomlive](#)).
- The conspiracy theory according to which Italian state media exposed Chinese biological experiments to infect humans with coronavirus in 2015 is debunked. The coronavirus discussed in 2015 has nothing to do with SARS-CoV-2 ([maldita](#)).