

COVID-19 media surveillance

14 January 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 80 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

- Spain: [third wave of Covid-19 forces some hospitals to cancel surgeries](#) as Spain's COVID-19 incidence climbs above 500 cases per 100,000 people
- France extends [6pm-to-6am curfew to the whole of the country](#)
- Germany: [further lockdown measures are discussed due to UK and South African variants](#) amid rise in daily deaths
- Belgium: First case of [South African variant detected in Belgium](#)
- Luxembourg reported [six cases of UK B.1.1.7 strain](#)
- Greece presses for [EU vaccine passports, but privacy champions warn of risks](#)
- Ireland: [44% of all Covid-19 cases reported in last 14 days](#)
- Sweden reports [record daily number of COVID-19 deaths](#), but infection rate may have peaked
- UK [bans travel from South America and Portugal](#) due to Brazilian variant; most people who have had Covid-19 are [protected from catching it again for at least five months](#), a study led by Public Health England shows.
- US: President-Elect [Biden to unveil emergency coronavirus plan](#) with major focus on vaccines; [more than 90,000 Americans could die of Covid-19 in next three weeks](#), CDC forecast shows; [Microsoft, Oracle and Salesforce join a push for digital vaccination credentials](#)
- South African Covid-19 [variant could pose threat to antibody drugs](#) according to Dr Fauci
- African Union secured [270 million extra vaccine doses for the continent](#)
- Brazil: Major fears that the [mutation could hamper immunity after Brazilian nurse reinfected with new COVID-19 variant; health system collapsed in the state of Amazonas](#)
- India: millions expected to make the [Kumbh Mela pilgrimage to city of Hardiwar despite Covid-19](#)
- Israel is [leading the world in vaccinating its population](#)
- Australia: [Mysterious cluster in Brisbane a warning to stop using hotels for managed isolation](#), experts say
- New Zealand reported [7 new cases in managed isolation since Monday](#)
- South Korea's COVID-19 drugs [regdanvimab and nafamostat are nearing emergency use approval](#)
- China: [As WHO researchers arrive to investigate the pandemic's origins, China is seeing a rare surge](#) in its infections including one death in Hebei province
- Japan [bars entry for new arrivals and business travelers](#) until 7 February due to new COVID-19 strains



Twitter

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

- "Moderna CEO says the world will have to live with Covid 'forever'" ([cnbc](#))
- "UK coronavirus deaths pass 100,000 after 1,564 reported in one day. Experts condemn 'phenomenal failure of policy and practice' in handling of pandemic" ([theguardian](#))
- "Sinovac's vaccine general efficacy less than 60% in Brazil trial" ([reuters](#))
- "New Jersey Democrat thinks she contracted coronavirus during Capitol siege" ([thehill](#), also: [nbcnews](#))

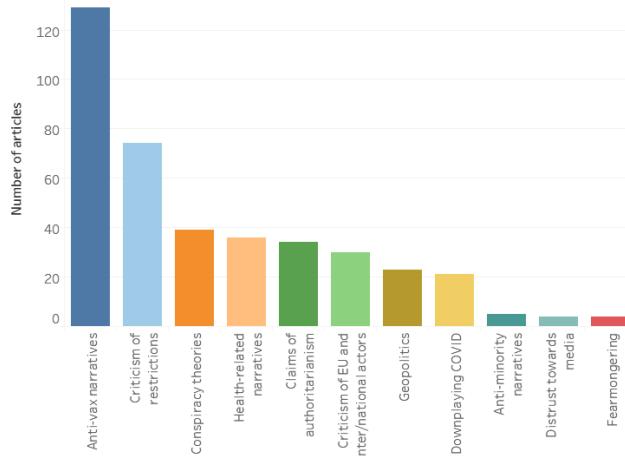
The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, Reuters, CNN and AP News.

Latinus, El País, Infobae and El Diario, and Le Monde and Ouest France were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

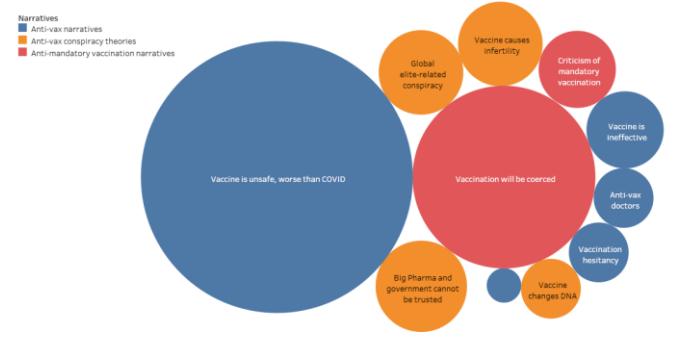


Misinformation

Over the past week, 399 articles were selected as relevant following manual annotation of a larger set of COVID-related articles from unverified sources. In total, 11 super-narratives were identified:



The bubble chart shows the narrative and subnarratives associated with anti-vax articles. The colours represent the narratives, while the text indicates each subnarrative. The bigger the size of the bubble, the higher the number of articles tagged as that narrative and subnarrative.



Fact Check

Fact checkers are debunking several COVID-19 vaccine misinformation narratives including:

- Claims that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine contains potassium chloride, a chemical used to stop the heart during a process of lethal injection ([afp](#));
- Claims that 21 percent of patients from the Moderna vaccine trial have experienced severe adverse events ([afp](#));
- Claims that mandatory vaccines became law in the UK ([fullfact](#)).