

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 90 thousand articles per day on Sunday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

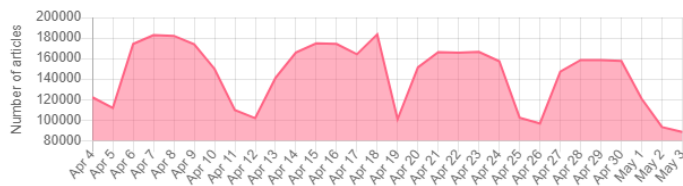


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: CDC reports [1,122,486 cases and 65,735 deaths](#); President [Trump forecasts 100,000 deaths](#)
- Spain: [daily deaths fall to 163, the lowest figure seen since March 18](#)
- Italy [reports fewest deaths since lockdown started](#)
- France reports its [lowest daily coronavirus death toll since late March](#); [confusion over French quarantine rules for overseas visitors](#)
- Germany's [new cases, number of deaths at lowest in five weeks](#)
- UK: [death toll rises to 28,446](#)
- Belgium: [235 coronavirus contact tracers in Brussels will begin a test run on Monday](#)
- Luxembourg: [12 new cases and 4 deaths reported on Sunday](#)
- Russia is [becoming one of the world's coronavirus hotspots](#); [record 10,000 new cases in a day](#) reported on Saturday
- Iran: [mosques set to reopen in low-risk areas](#)
- India: number of cases crosses [40,000-mark after biggest single-day spike with more than 1,300 deaths](#); [25% of all active cases detected in past 3 days](#)
- Brazil has become the [first country in Latin America to report more than 100,000 cases](#); President [Bolsonaro headlines anti-democratic rally amid alarm over handling of coronavirus](#)
- Singapore has [most cases in Southeast Asia](#); [657 new confirmed cases](#), 95 per cent of whom were among migrant workers in dormitories
- South Korea reports 8 imported cases and [no new local virus cases and prepares to further ease social distancing](#)
- Japan: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is [set to extend Japan's state of emergency until May 31](#); [203 new cases reported on Sunday](#); [FINA postpones 2021 World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka to May 2022](#)
- China reported [three new cases on Sunday, all of which were imported](#)



Twitter

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

- "Spain does not support France, Denmark and Poland in the veto of public aid for the coronavirus to companies with headquarters in tax havens" ([eldiario](#))
- "BBC stands firm against minister's criticism of Panorama show on PPE" ([theguardian](#))
- "34 days of pandemic: Inside Trump's desperate attempts to reopen America" ([washingtontimes](#))
- "Before Covid-19, Trump aide sought to use disease to close borders" ([nytimes](#))
- "US coronavirus data is at odds with Trump's push to get the economy back up and running" ([vox](#))
- "Birt's 'Fox News Sunday' interview lays bare the discord in Trump's coronavirus response" ([washingtontimes](#))

The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, CNN, the Guardian, the Independent and the Daily Mail.

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Marc Lipsitch (USA, Harvard School of Public Health):

"Some states are choosing to lift restrictions when they have more new infections than they had when they decided to impose the restrictions. It is hard to even understand the rationale."

Fact Check

Fact checked: health claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that eating alkaline foods can prevent/cure COVID-19 ([boomlive](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a video in which an alleged scientist claims that chlorine dioxide can cure COVID-19 ([afp](#)).

Fact checked: anti-Muslim sentiment

- Fact checkers debunk a video in Arabic claiming to show "the first Chinese Muslim after the coronavirus outbreak" ([fatabyyano](#)) and a photo claiming to show a Japanese family who converted to Islam after they recovered from COVID-19 ([afp](#)). These are said to be part of a misleading set of news claiming that in the wake of the pandemic, many non-Muslims are converting to Islam.

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers analyse Trump's claim that "more and more, we're hearing the story [that the new coronavirus emerged from a Wuhan lab]", concluding that it is doubtful that the novel coronavirus was created at the Wuhan Institute of Virology ([washingtonpost](#)).
- Fact checkers continue to debunk claims that Nobel Prize-winning scientist Tasuku Honjo said SARS-CoV-2 is not natural and originated in a Wuhan lab ([theologicalindian](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that there are over 1,500 secret viruses in the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and SARS-CoV-2 was one of them ([teyit](#)).