

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

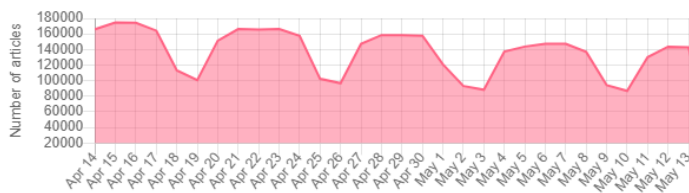


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- USA: President Trump [criticized NIAID director Fauci for his testimony to congress](#); Federal Reserve Chair Powell pointed to [potentially dire consequences if a lasting economic downturn is not averted with forceful policies](#)
- UK: Coronavirus [hospital admissions falling faster in London than anywhere else](#)
- Spain: [antibody study shows just 5% of Spaniards have contracted the coronavirus](#)
- Italy: study reports a [30-fold jump in cases of a serious but rare pediatric inflammatory disease due to covid-19](#)
- France: French government will [present 'Marshall Plan' for tourism](#)
- Germany recorded the [highest number of new coronavirus cases in five days as the government gradually lifts restrictions](#) on daily life
- Belgium: [exit phase 2 starts as planned from 18 May](#)
- Luxembourg: [city of Luxembourg opens public and cultural institutions](#)
- Russia is now the [second most-affected country in terms of infections and has the world's second-fastest rate of new infections](#) behind the US
- Brazil reached [188,974 confirmed cases and 13,149 deaths](#) surpassing France as Brazil is [becoming one of the new epicentres](#)
- New Zealand started a [month-long gradual relaxation of restrictions, with retailers and restaurants among the first to reopen](#).
- Singapore reported [752 new cases, predominantly among migrant workers staying in dormitories](#)
- South Korea is at critical moment in its struggle to [prevent a second wave after outbreak in a popular Seoul nightlife area threatens to turn into a wider spread into communities](#)
- Japan: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is set to announce Thursday evening the [lifting of the state of emergency in 39 prefectures](#); coronavirus concerns are [overwhelming Japan's suicide hotlines](#)
- China reported [three new cases for May 13, two in the northeastern Liaoning province and one in Jilin province that borders Liaoning](#)



Twitter

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

- "Philippines probes Manila police chief's birthday bash amid lockdown" ([nytimes](#))
- "Lessons on civic duty from Boris Johnson? No thank you" ([theguardian](#))
- "Coronavirus control could take 5 years, says WHO chief scientist" ([folha](#))
- "We don't have a president, or a plan. 60 days into the coronavirus crisis, the White House does not have a plan, a framework, a philosophy, or a goal." ([vox](#))
- "Coronavirus likely forced 27 million off their health insurance" ([axios](#))
- "FBI serves warrant on senator in investigation of stock sales linked to coronavirus" ([latimes](#))
- "Texas sees 1,000 new coronavirus cases 5 days in a row" ([thehill](#))

The most mentioned English sources were the Washington Post, Vox, the New York Times, the Guardian and the LA Times.

Libertad digital, El Pais, Infobae, RT (Spanish version) and Okdiario, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Tedros Adhanom (WHO, Director-General):

"It is now crystal clear that mental health needs must be treated as a core element of our response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic"; "This is a collective responsibility of governments and civil society, with the support of the whole United Nations System. A failure to take people's emotional well-being seriously will lead to long-term social and economic costs to society".

Michael Ryan (WHO, Executive Director):

"It is important to put this on the table: this virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away".

Antonio Guterres (United Nations, Secretary-General):

"The pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering"; "I urge all governments to make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of their national response plans for COVID-19".

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear-mongering claims

- Fact checkers debunk a video claiming to show coronavirus victims in India - the video in question shows victims of a gas leak at a chemical plant ([afpfactcheck](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- Fact checkers debunk viral claims that "Roche Pharmaceuticals launched a vaccine that cures COVID-19 in three hours", reiterating that there is no COVID-19 vaccine yet ([animalpolitico](#)).

Fact checked: anti-vax narratives

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the flu vaccine increases the risk of coronavirus infection, explaining that such claims overstate scientific confidence - while a few studies suggest that the flu vaccine may increase the risk of viral respiratory infections, another much larger and longer study was not able to replicate these findings ([healthfeedback](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims circulating in Croatia that the coronavirus outbreak is a cover for kidnapping children ([faktograf](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that there is a link between 5G technology and the coronavirus outbreak ([newtral](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the *Washington Post* reported that patient zero was a Wuhan Institute of Virology laboratory worker ([agencialupa](#)).