

COVID-19 media surveillance

20 May 2020; 9:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 130 thousand articles per day on Tuesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

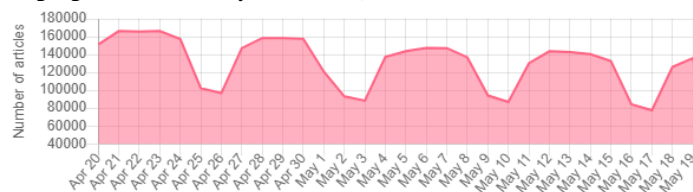


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- USA: [at least 17 states have recorded a clear upward trend of average new daily cases](#), yet [all 50 states have started easing restrictions](#); [more than 90,000 deaths](#)
- UK: [almost 55,000 excess deaths according to Office for National Statistics](#); [contact tracers lack knowledge about Covid-19 job](#)
- Spain [aims to allow domestic tourism by end of June](#); [daily fatalities remain under 100 for third day in a row](#)
- Italy reports [new spike in cases and death toll after brief dip](#)
- France: [approximately 30 active clusters in France with no signs of resumption of epidemic](#)
- Germany: [13 % of German districts without new cases over last seven days](#)
- Belgium reaches 55,791 confirmed cases and 9,108 deaths; [one in four intensive care patients did not survive](#)
- Luxembourg [reported 11 new cases and 2 deaths](#)
- Russia's cases [surpassed 300,000](#) with [increasing doubts over the low reported death toll](#)
- India has recorded the [biggest single-day rise of 5,611 new cases, with the total cases reaching 106,750 including 3,303 deaths](#)
- Indonesia [reports biggest daily rise in infections](#) with 683 new cases
- Egypt announced the [highest daily number of cases, but still planned to ease restrictions after the Eid holidays at the end of Ramadan](#)
- Brazil has become [the third most-affected country after the US and Russia with 17,971 deaths reported on Tuesday](#); President [Bolsonaro eases restrictions and dismantles environmental legislation during pandemic](#)
- New Zealand's Prime Minister Ardern [suggests four-day working week as way to rebuild country after Covid-19](#)
- Singapore: [570 new cases, mostly among migrant workers in dormitories](#)
- South Korea's [new cases rose by the highest number in nine days](#)
- Wednesday amid looming mass infections at a major hospital in Seoul and [a rise in nightclub-linked cases](#)
- Japan [may lift state of emergency for Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo this week](#)
- China recorded [five new coronavirus cases for May 19, including four local transmissions and one imported case](#)



Twitter

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

- "Wearing a mask can significantly reduce coronavirus transmission, study on hamsters claims" ([cnbc](#))
- "Maryland reports largest rise yet in coronavirus cases 4 days after reopening" ([npr](#))
- "Opinion: Georgia's coronavirus data made reopening look safe. The numbers were a lie" ([latimes](#))
- "Florida's scientist was fired for refusing to 'manipulate' COVID-19 data" ([usatoday](#))
- "Federal judge rules Texans afraid of catching Covid-19 can vote by mail" ([cnn](#))
- "'Hard stop': States could lose National Guard virus workers. The Trump administration's order ends deployments on June 24, just one day before thousands would qualify for education and retirement benefits" ([politico](#))
- "Madrid confirms one of every three infections of the coronavirus with more than a week of delay" ([publico](#))
- "The real number of deaths in Mexico City" ([contralacorrupcion](#))

The hashtags [#hydroxychloroquine](#) and [#trumpmorbidlyobese](#) trended after Donald Trump's admission that he is taking hydroxychloroquine and Nancy Pelosi's comments ([theguardian](#)).

The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, the Guardian, Fox News, the Washington Post and CNN.

El Diario, El Pais, 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):

"The world does not lack the tools, the science, or the resources to make it safer from pandemics. What it has lacked is the sustained commitment to use the tools, the science and the resources it has".

Pedro Sanchez (Spain, Prime Minister):

"Spain needs tourism. But tourism needs security. It needs health guarantees".

Xi Jinping (China, President):

"China will provide \$2 billion over two years to help with COVID-19 response and with economic and social development in affected countries, especially developing countries".

Fact Check

Fact checked: claims on the media

- Fact checkers debunk claims that Greta Thunberg appeared on a CNN "expert panel" in a program about the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, explaining that the teenage climate activist did not appear on the show to offer expertise on the virus; rather, she discussed her work as an activist on such issues as children's welfare and climate change during a pandemic ([snopes](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- Fact checkers provide clarifications on claims that according to a study, cannabis may stop coronavirus from infecting people, reporting that while the study in question finds that cannabis extracts could be part of a treatment that helps prevent coronavirus, it has not been peer reviewed and it is based only on lab testing ([politifact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk viral messages claiming that drinking boldo tea, a type of herbal tea, cures the symptoms of coronavirus ([afpcheamos](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the existence of a canine coronavirus vaccine demonstrates that a human vaccine for COVID-19 should already exist, explaining that the misunderstanding probably stems from the word "coronavirus" and how it pertains to a family of viruses ([maldita](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that according to French microbiologist Didier Raoult, the novel coronavirus was created by the US and China to "destroy" Africa ([afpcheamos](#)).