

COVID-19 media surveillance

31 March 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 Monday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

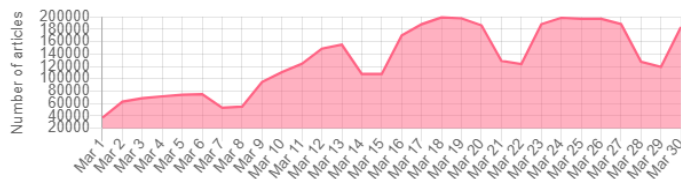


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)

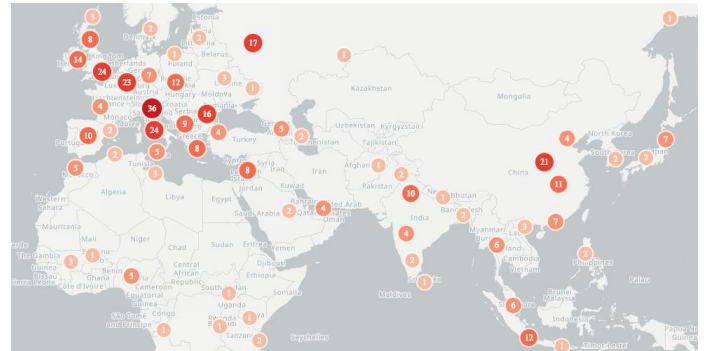


Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing large clusters of media reports on Italy, France, Spain, Russia, China and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- USA: [more than 160,000 cases and 3000 deaths; cruise ships Zaandam and Rotterdam heading to Florida; US to send 100 million USD of medical supplies to Italy and other European countries](#)
- Italy: [101,739 cases and 11,597 deaths reported in total on 30 March; decreasing number of new cases; lockdown measures extended until 14 April](#)
- Spain: [daily coronavirus deaths fall slightly but total infections exceed China's](#)
- France: [3,024 deaths reported](#) with Ile de France region most affected
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [11,899 confirmed cases and 513 deaths in Belgium; nearly 2000 cases and 22 deaths in total in Luxembourg amid signs of decrease in new cases](#)
- Poland: [rapid growth of cases expected according to health minister](#)
- Hungary: [law was passed to rule by decree without clear time limit; jail terms for spreading misinformation seen as part of global press-freedom crackdown](#)
- UK: European People's party (EPP) urged the [UK to extend Brexit transition period](#); UK discussed [joint EU plan to buy Covid-19 medical supplies](#) but did not take part
- Russia: [several regions enter lockdown including St Petersburg](#)
- India: [millions of workers flee cities](#)
- Australia: [sustained fall in the rate of new coronavirus infections; 10% of Australian cases are from the Ruby Princess cruise ship](#)
- South Korea: [slight rise in new cases; 125 new cases due to cluster in Daegu and imported cases, but Seoul area also of concern](#)
- Japan: [calls grow to declare state of emergency as more than 2,000 cases were reported; advice against travel to 50 nations including US](#)
- China: [48 imported cases](#) with no new confirmed case from Wuhan for seven days; [college entrance exam delayed as fears grow over risk of second coronavirus wave](#)
- Economy: [World Bank warns pandemic is causing 'unprecedented global shock'](#)



Twitter

The most retweeted items were:

- The Japanese Medical Association held a press conference asking for an emergency declaration ([yahoo_jp](#))
- Is the U.S. 'flattening the curve?' ([time](#))
- Trump thrilled that coronavirus is boosting his press conference ratings ([vanityfair](#))

An article published on 27 March has received a high number of retweets:

- FBI warns of potential surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans amid coronavirus ([abcnews](#))

The following hashtags were on the rise:

- #oban due to the law to rule by decree without clear time limit
- #stoppairingtrump and #boycotttrumpressconferences appeared following the latest White House press conference

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

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Takeshi Kasai (WHO, Regional Director for the Western Pacific):

"Let me be clear. The epidemic is far from over in Asia and the Pacific. This is going to be a long-term battle and we cannot let down our guard"; "We need every country to keep preparing for large-scale community transmission."

Aaditya Mattoo (World Bank, Chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific):

"[The pandemic is causing] an unprecedented global shock, which could bring growth to a halt and could increase poverty across the region".

Fact Check

Fact checked: political aspect of coronavirus

- Putin did not say that Italy would not be alone if it left the EU ([pagellapolitica](#)).

Fact checked: fear mongering

- The 21 million mobile accounts deactivated in China after the coronavirus outbreak did not belong to people who have died of COVID-19 ([butac](#)).
- Military trucks are not collecting the bodies of COVID-19 victims in Italy, contrary to what a photo circulating on social media claims to portray ([fullfact](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- Drinking water and hot tea does not prevent a coronavirus infection ([rappler](#), [efectococuyo](#)).
- No COVID-19 cure has been found ([pagellapolitica](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- The novel coronavirus is not a hoax invented by governments to make money ([raskrinkavanje.ba](#)).
- Bill Gates does not have access to the DNA of those who have taken a coronavirus test, and he does not partly own WHO ([leadstories](#)).