

COVID-19 media surveillance

30 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 120 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, Germany, Spain, Greece, China and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- USA: [more than 140,000 cases](#); [USA could face 200,000 deaths and millions of cases according to NIAID director Fauci](#); [social distancing extended through end of April](#)
- Italy: [97,689 cases and 10,779 deaths](#) in total reported on 29 March 18:00; [Albania sent 30 doctors and nurses](#)
- Spain: [deaths continue to rise with 838 deaths](#) reported on Sunday; [lockdown extended to include all non-essential workers](#)
- France: [patients from eastern France transferred by TGV to Bordeaux and by plane to Ulm](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [1,702 new cases confirmed, 78 new deaths in Belgium](#); [nearly 2000 cases and 21 deaths in total in Luxembourg](#)
- Poland: [debate about presidential election on 10 May](#)
- Hungary: [debate about new law to protect against coronavirus](#)
- UK: [restrictions could last six months](#) according to chief medical officer
- Russia: [Moscow went into mandatory lockdown](#) with 1,000 cases reported
- India: [lockdown triggers exodus to rural areas](#) as [Prime Minister Modi defends the measures](#) asking for forgiveness
- Brazil: [4,256 cases and 136 deaths reported](#); [President Bolsonaro is considering a regulation to allow citizens to return to work](#)
- Nigeria: [lockdown in Lagos and the capital city of Abuja](#)
- South Korea: [decrease in number of new cases, but clusters and imported cases remain a concern](#)
- Japan: [travelers from the US, China, South Korea and most of Europe banned from entry](#); [stocks fell due to fears of Tokyo lockdown](#); [2,578 confirmed cases, including 712 from cruise ship Diamond Princess, with 64 deaths](#)
- China: [drop in new coronavirus cases with no transmission in Wuhan](#) for sixth day; [return to normalcy while maintaining the status](#)
- Economy: [Remarks by Dutch Finance Minister Hoekstra](#) made headlines; [oil prices fall to 17-year low](#)



Twitter

The most retweeted items were:

- Japanese Comedian Ken Shimura died of COVID-19 ([nhk](#))
- A Spanish princess is the world's first royal to die from the coronavirus ([insider](#))
- Liberty University brings back its students, and coronavirus fears, too ([nytimes](#))
- The missing six weeks: how Trump failed the biggest test of his life ([theguardian](#))

The following hashtags were on the rise:

- [#popefrancis](#) as Pope Francis warned of a "viral genocide" in places where governments put the economy before people.

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

Okdiario, 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*

Richard Horten (UK, Editor of The Lancet) :

"The UK Government's Contain-Delay-Mitigate-Research strategy failed. It failed, in part, because ministers didn't follow WHO's advice to "test, test, test" every suspected case. They didn't isolate and quarantine. They didn't contact trace. These basic principles of public health and infectious disease control were ignored, for reasons that remain opaque".

Donald Trump (USA, President)

"If we can hold that number down ... to 100,000, it's a horrible number, maybe even less ... we all, all together have done a very good job".

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear mongering

- Italy did not "surrender" to the coronavirus outbreak ([boomlive](#)).
- Photos of people covered in blankets sitting on the roadside are not from coronavirus-hit Italy, but from earthquake-hit Croatia ([thequint](#)).
- Italy's Internet infrastructure is not about to collapse ([pagellapolitica](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- Drinking tea and eating bananas cannot prevent COVID-19 ([animalpolitico](#), [boomlive](#)).
- Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS) or sodium chlorite does not cure COVID-19 ([maldita.es](#)).
- A Cuban drug has not cured over 1,500 coronavirus patients ([efectocucuyo](#)).
- It is not true that a COVID-19 vaccine that can cure patients in under 3 hours has been created ([thequint](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- The novel coronavirus is not a bioweapon ([efectocucuyo](#)).