

COVID-19 media surveillance

29 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 120 thousand articles per day on Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

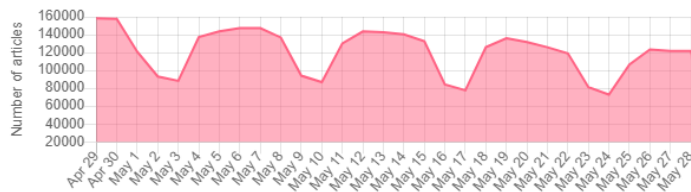


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: CDC published [guidelines for offices to reopen](#); Trump signs [order that could punish social media companies for how they police content](#)
- Brazil records [more than 1,000 deaths for third consecutive day](#) as [Sao Paulo plans to ease lockdown restrictions on 1 June](#)
- UK: [Lockdown restrictions eased across the UK](#)
- Spain: [70% of Spain will be in phase 2 of deescalation plan by Monday while the islands of Formentera, La Gomera, El Hierro and La Graciosa will move to Phase 3](#)
- Italy reported [593 new cases of which 382 are in Lombardy region](#)
- France's Prime Minister [Edouard Philippe has announced the measures of phase 2 including reopening of bars and restaurants on 2 June](#)
- Germany reported [less than 1,000 cases for the past 14 days](#)
- Belgium reported [257 new cases and 47 hospital admissions](#)
- Luxembourg started a [testing program to check each and every one of its roughly 600,000 people as well as cross-border workers over the next nine weeks](#)
- Russia: [Moscow's authorities have more than doubled the official death toll in the capital for the month of April](#)
- Mexico hits [national daily record for new cases as country nears 80,000 reported infections](#)
- India reported [largest single-day spike in cases with Maharashtra biggest contributor](#)
- New Zealand reported [no new cases for a week](#)
- South Korea is struggling to [contain cluster-traced spread in greater Seoul area with more than 50 new cases](#)
- Japan: [Tokyo will start phase two on Monday and Osaka prefecture will fully reopen on Monday](#); city of [Kita-Kyushu fears second wave](#)
- China reports [no new cases for May 28](#)



Twitter

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

- "Pence chief of staff owns stocks that could conflict with coronavirus response" ([npr](#))
- "Bad state data hides coronavirus threat as Trump pushes reopening" ([politico](#))
- "The world is still far from herd immunity for coronavirus" ([nytimes](#))
- "Dominic Cummings row re-erupts as police deliver verdict on lockdown 'breach'" ([telegraph](#))
- "ITV News reveals plans to discharge Covid-19 patients into care homes" ([itv](#))
- "Japan ends coronavirus emergency with 850 deaths and no lockdown" ([newsweek](#))

The hashtag #edouardphilippe trended in France after the premier minister's announcements to ease lockdown on 2 June ([twitter](#)).

The most mentioned English sources were the Washington Post, NPR, the New York Times, the Guardian, FT, the Telegraph and the Independent.

El Diario, Libertad Digital, Libre Mercado, Infobae and El Pais, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Edouard Philippe (France, Premier Minister):

"To follow the evolution on Covid in the country, we have presented the indicators making it possible to distinguish the red and green zones. Today, all of these indicators are green except for two departments: Val-d'Oise et Mayotte"; "Tourist accommodation, holiday villages, and campsites can open from June 2 in all departments, except those that are subject to particular vigilance".

Attilio Fontana (Italy, Governor of Lombardy region):

"We have examined the data relating to Lombardy region [...] and we have been able to highlight how they are all extremely positive and all improving compared to the previous weeks, this means that the situation is substantially improving".

Fact Check

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that Italian doctors discovered COVID-19 is a bacterial disease and found a cure, citing the broad scientific consensus that COVID-19 is a virus, not a bacterial disease and addressing the nuance that while some COVID-19 patients have died from inflammation of the blood vessels, the overwhelming evidence shows this is not the primary cause of death ([factrescendo](#), [poynter](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that masks and gloves provoke the development of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, and bacteria ([stopfake](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that it is possible to overcome the new coronavirus without implementing quarantine measures given that Belarus has done it, noting that not only Belarus registers about 900 new cases of COVID-19 daily, but also that independent media report that the official statistics are not reliable ([stopfake](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that consuming soup made with 10 lemons, honey, ginger, onion and 10 garlic cloves three times a day prevents and cures COVID-19, reiterating that so far no medicine has been shown to prevent or cure COVID-19 ([animalpolitico](#)).

Fact checked: anti-vax claims

- Fact checkers debunk *News Front's* claim that "every fourth American is against taking a anti-COVID-19 vaccine", reporting that the pro-Kremlin news site downplayed findings showing support for a coronavirus vaccine in a survey commissioned by Reuters ([polygraph](#)).