

COVID-19 media surveillance

22 October 2020; 20:30 weekly brief

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) remains a mayor news topic, reaching up to 90 thousand articles per day in October (in 70 languages, as detected by [EMM/MEDISYS](#)).

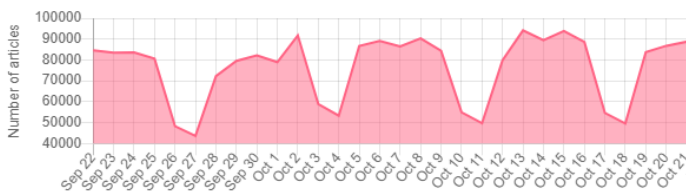


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- U.S. cases are [increasing across the country amid a surge of infections in the upper midwest](#) (Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota)
- India: [the US case trajectory surpassed India's – India is thus no longer the country reporting the most new infections in the world](#)
- Brazil: [A volunteer in AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine trial died on Monday](#)
- Spain has become the [first country in Western Europe to reach one million cases as pandemic accelerates](#)
- France: a [curfew from 21 to 6 affects 46 million people as France reported more than 41,000 new cases on Thursday](#)
- Ireland entered a [national lockdown for a second time in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19](#)
- Italy reported record numbers with [16,079 new cases with the regions of Lombardy, Piedmont, Campania, Veneto, Lazio and Tuscany being most affected](#)
- Belgium's [deputy PM in intensive care with coronavirus](#)
- Germany reported a record of [11,000 cases as the Robert-Koch-Institute warns of 'very serious' situation; residents of Berchtesgaden Land district of Bavaria will not be able to leave their homes without a valid reason for two weeks](#)
- Austria reported [2,000 new daily cases for the first time](#)
- Slovakia will impose [partial lockdown on Saturday](#)
- Denmark [closed its borders for German tourists](#)
- Greece orders [night curfew for worst-hit areas](#) including Athens
- Luxembourg recorded a [record increase with 595 new cases on Thursday](#)
- Sweden's [spike in cases forces rethink on lockdown amid Europe's second wave](#)
- UK reported [more than 20,000 new cases for third day in a row](#)
- Russia: [A number of regions risk facing a second wave 10 times worse than the first according to a senior Russian vector-borne disease expert](#)
- New Zealand: Two cases were confirmed aboard the [Sofrana Surville, the suspected source of an infection of a New Zealand port worker](#)
- South Korea saw a [triple-digit increase in new daily cases as the country battles an uptick in both locally transmitted and imported cases.](#)
- Chinese health authorities have discovered [live coronavirus on frozen food packaging, a finding that suggests the virus can survive in cold supply chains.](#)
- Japanese researchers show [masks do block coronavirus, but not entirely](#)



Twitter

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

- "Trump's den of dissent: Inside the White House task force as coronavirus surges" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "8 million Americans slipped into poverty amid coronavirus pandemic, new study says. Researchers looked at the devastating financial effect the pandemic has had on Americans, with Blacks, Latinos and children faring the worst." ([nbcnews](#))
- "The coronavirus pandemic has caused nearly 300,000 more deaths [in the US] than expected in a typical year" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "End SARS: American govt will stand with Nigerian youths – Joe Biden warns Buhari" ([dailypost.ng](#)) – Accordingly, several hashtags such as [#endpolicebrutalityinnigera](#), [#nigeria](#), [#endbadgovernanceinnigeria](#), [#endpolicebrutalityinnigeranow](#) and [#endpolicebrutalityinnigeria](#) were trending.

The most mentioned English sources were the Washington Post, CNN, Daily Post Nigeria, the New York Times, Sky and Politico.

Infobae, La Nación, El Diario, Antena3 and El País, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.



Fact Check

- Fact checkers address claims that the WHO changed its position on lockdowns, reporting that the WHO has always maintained that lockdowns should not be used as the primary control method of the disease but as a last resort ([thejournal](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a video purporting to show massive crowds “standing up against the corona dictatorship” in Spain, reporting that the video in question is actually from February 2019 and portrays demonstrations against PM Pedro Sánchez’s Catalonia policies ([afpfaktencheck](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the WHO confirmed that the seasonal flu is more dangerous than COVID-19, reporting that statements by a WHO official are taken out of context ([correctiv](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that data by the CDC show that masks do not protect against the coronavirus, reporting that such claims were first made by American political commentator Tucker Carlson, who, however, misinterpreted and misrepresented the CDC data ([stopfake](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that an alkaline diet aimed at eliminating foods that are high in acidity in order to change the body’s pH levels will prevent you from getting infected with the coronavirus ([poligrafo](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that PCR tests and nasal swabs are fooling citizens as they detect coronavirus, but not necessarily the one that causes COVID-19 ([facta](#)).