

COVID-19 media surveillance

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Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 170 thousand articles per day on Wednesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

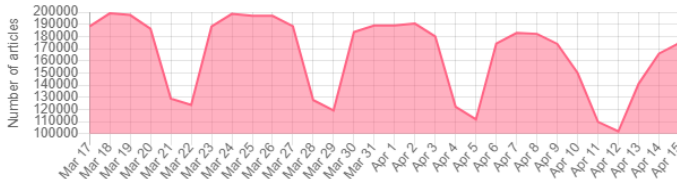


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- USA: [Trump said some states may reopen before 1 May as more than 30,000 deaths have been reported; New York to start reporting probable coronavirus deaths based on new guidelines; Trump cited Fox News report that virus allegedly stems from a lab in Wuhan; Trump threatened to adjourn both chambers of Congress if Senate did not confirm his nominees for vacancies across the administration](#)
- Spain: [social service residences have suffered at least 11,600 coronavirus deaths; testing to be increased from 20,000 daily tests](#)
- Italy: [578 new deaths but new cases continue to slow](#)
- France: [668 sailors onboard aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle have tested positive](#)
- UK: [former chief scientific adviser says Boris Johnson's slow response to the coronavirus pandemic cost lives; outbreak leads to sharp rise in deaths at home due to reluctance to call for an ambulance](#)
- Germany: [easing of lockdown to start with schools on May 4](#)
- Sweden: [ongoing debate on lockdown measures as more than 1,200 deaths were reported](#)
- EU: [Ursula von der Leyen presented a European roadmap towards common lifting of containment measures](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [Belgium extends its lockdown until 3 May and reaffirms WHO support after US freezes funding; slow exit from lockdown presented in Luxembourg](#)
- Russia: [new record daily rise, nearly 28,000 confirmed cases in total](#)
- Belarus: [A man who lost his mother to the coronavirus has filed a police case against the leader of Belarus, accusing President Alexander Lukashenko of failing to take adequate measures](#)
- Brazil: [strong increase of 204 new deaths in 24 hours](#)
- South Korea: [22 new confirmed cases and 4 deaths amid fears of a post-election spike](#)
- Japan: [the Japanese government is considering expanding areas covered by state of emergency; Japan may pay out ¥100,000 per person to aid pandemic-hit economy](#)
- China: [34 imported cases and 12 local infections with three new cases in Beijing](#)
- Economy: [Asia's economic growth this year will grind to a halt for the first time in 60 years; G20 finance ministers agree to suspend poorer countries' debt payments.](#)



Twitter

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

- After anonymous tip, 17 bodies found at nursing home hit by virus ([nytimes](#))
- Putin's long war against American science ([nytimes](#))
- March 2020 was the first March without a school shooting in the U.S. since 2002 ([cbsnews](#))
- Bill Gates, in rebuke of Trump, calls WHO funding cut during pandemic 'as dangerous as it sounds' ([washingtonpost](#))

The hashtags #worldhealthorganization, #who and #oms are trending following Donald Trump's decision to halt funding to WHO.

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

Infobae, El País and RT (Spanish Version) and Le Parisien and Le Monde were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Antonio Guterres (United Nations, Secretary General):

"We know the pandemic is having profound social, economic and political consequences, including relating to international peace and security"; "We see it, for example, in postponement of elections or limitations on the ability to vote, sustained restrictions on movement, spiraling unemployment and other factors that could contribute to rising discontent and political tensions."

Tedros Adhanom (WHO, Director General):

"WHO is reviewing the impact on our work of any withdrawal of U.S. funding and we will work with partners to fill any gaps and ensure our work continues uninterrupted".

Angela Merkel (Germany, Chancellor):

"If we allow more public life in small steps now, it is very important that we can follow the infection chains even better"; "It must be our goal to be able to track every infection chain".

Fact Check

Fact checks: misinformation about public authorities

- Fact checkers debunk the story of a German lawyer who taken to a psychiatric facility by the police for fighting coronavirus restrictions - the lawyer was taken to a psychiatric clinic for unrelated reasons ([tagesschau](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk the story that Boris Johnson never contracted COVID-19 ([fullfact](#)).

Fact checks: prevention

- Fact checkers debunk claims that watered-down mouthwash is an effective substitute for hand sanitiser ([thejournal](#)).

Fact checks: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers dismiss claims that there is a link between 5G wireless technology and the novel coronavirus ([faktograf](#)).
- Fact checkers say it is not true that 5G antennas were set on fire in the Italian town of La Spezia ([demagog](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the coronavirus outbreak was predicted by a Netflix series ([correctiv](#)).