

# COVID-19 media surveillance

15 April 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 160 thousand articles per day on Tuesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

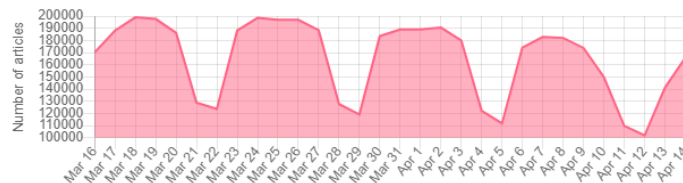


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)

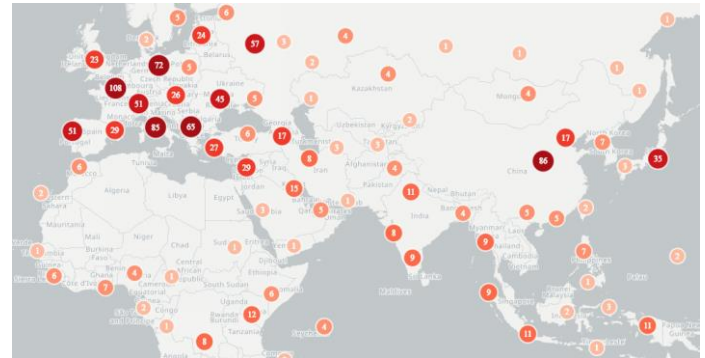


Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing large clusters of media reports on Italy, France, Spain, Germany, the UK, Russia, China, South Korea and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



## Headlines

- USA: [2,228 deaths in a single day; Donald Trump cut funding to the WHO amid pandemic; US Treasury has ordered Donald Trump's name be printed on stimulus cheques slowing delivery](#)
- Spain: [IMF forecasts 8% economic contraction and unemployment up to 21% due to crisis](#)
- Italy: [fewest new cases in a month](#)
- France: [Tour de France postponed; slight increase in cases and deaths reported](#)
- UK: [one third of NHS staff and key workers tested have coronavirus](#)
- Germany: [new cases fall for sixth day](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [Belgium's National Security Council will meet on Wednesday to review the lockdown as 31,119 cases were reported; 3,307 confirmed cases in Luxembourg](#)
- Denmark: [proposes faster easing of lockdown as cases fall](#)
- Turkey: [more than 4,000 cases a day increase worries that Turkey could become a new hotspot](#)
- Russia: [increase in cases continues with 2,774 confirmed cases on Tuesday; border checks are tightened at China-Russia border](#)
- Australia: [jailed its first person for breaching isolation laws](#)
- Ecuador: [city of Guayaquil reports a fivefold increase in mortality rate](#)
- South Korea: [vote amid outbreak with higher turnout than before; 27 new confirmed cases with greater Seoul area most affected](#)
- Japan: [untraceable cases raise fear outbreak spiraling out of control; shelters provided for homeless internet cafe users](#)
- China: [fewer coronavirus cases but infections from Heilongjiang province on the border to Russia remain a concern](#)
- Economy: [The International Monetary Fund warned of worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s](#)



## Twitter

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

- Tax change in coronavirus package overwhelmingly benefits millionaires, congressional body finds ([washingtonpost](#))
- Coronavirus authoritarianism is getting out of hand ([nationalreview](#))
- Trump halts World Health Organization funding over handling of coronavirus outbreak ([cnn](#))
- State Department cables warned of safety issues at Wuhan lab studying bat coronaviruses ([washingtonpost](#))

The hashtags #cancelstudentdebt and #studentdebtstimulus continue to be used amid discussions on student debt in the US ([nbcnews](#)).

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

Infobae, El Confidencial, El Diario, 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):**

"It is my belief that the World Health Organization must be supported, as it is absolutely critical to the world's efforts to win the war against COVID-19"; "It is also not the time to reduce the resources for the operations of the World Health Organization or any other humanitarian organization in the fight against the virus".

**Richard Horton (the Lancet, Editor-in-chief):**

"President Trump's decision to defund WHO is simply this—a crime against humanity. Every scientist, every health worker, every citizen must resist and rebel against this appalling betrayal of global solidarity".



## *Fact Check*

**Fact checked: fear mongering**

- Fact checkers have debunked images claiming to show mass graves for COVID-19 victims in the US – the images are from a television series ([teyit](#)).
- Fact checkers have debunked an image showing people in medical uniforms lying on the floor of a high-tech hospital ward accompanied by the caption “200 doctors and nurses have died in Italy due to coronavirus” - the image is from a television series ([indiatoday](#)).
- Fact checkers have debunked a video claiming to show body bags of COVID-19 victims sprawled on the floor of hospitals in Manila, Madrid, London, etc. ([rappler](#), [maldita](#), [fullfact](#)).

**Fact checked: spread of the disease**

- Fact checkers have debunked claims that smokers are “protected” against COVID-19 ([tjekdet](#)).

**Fact checked: conspiracy theories**

- Fact checkers have debunked the new “evidence” emerged in support of the theory that the novel coronavirus was created in a Chinese biolab ([open](#)).
- Fact checkers all over the world have debunked a story, according to which a train car carried COVID-19 ([demagog](#), [fakenews](#)).