

COVID-19 media surveillance

15 April 2021; 22:30 weekly brief

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

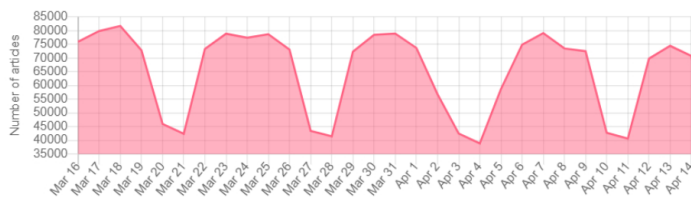


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing clusters of media reports (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- US: Pfizer CEO says [third Covid vaccine dose likely needed within 12 months](#)
- Canada: [Whistler ski resort silenced by one of the largest P.1 variant outbreaks](#) outside South America
- Brazil's [health system faces collapse as COVID-19 cases surge](#)
- Chile's COVID-19 [infections stay high despite the continuation of the country's vaccination program](#)
- Spain reports [more than 10,000 new coronavirus cases as fourth wave takes hold](#)
- France passes grim milestone of [100,000 deaths from COVID-19](#)
- German government agrees on [nationwide pandemic law](#)
- Denmark [first country in the world to completely stop use of AstraZeneca vaccine](#)
- Norway [delays AstraZeneca vaccine ruling](#) to further probe risks
- Luxembourg: [rapid tests available in schools starting Monday](#)
- UK reported [77 cases of Covid variant B.1.617 first detected in India](#)
- Israelis [no longer required to wear masks outside starting Sunday](#)
- Iran to [purchase 60 million COVID-19 vaccines from Russia](#)
- India confirms [more than 200,000 cases in a day](#)
- Thailand readies [restrictions as COVID-19 cases surge](#)
- Cambodia: [COVID-19 variant pushes Cambodia to brink of 'national tragedy'](#)
- New Zealand reported [two new cases in managed isolation](#)
- China reports [10 new imported COVID-19 cases](#); Hong Kong expands [vaccination programme to under 30s](#)
- Japan: Tokyo [Olympic Games could still be cancelled](#) due to coronavirus, senior Japanese government official says



Twitter

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

- "'Super-spreader' erupts as devout Hindus throng Kumbh Mela" ([reuters](#)); "As 1 of every 6 daily infections is now in India, huge Kumbh crowds" ([ndtv](#))
- "In world first, Denmark ditches AstraZeneca's COVID-19 shot" ([reuters](#))
- "Discarded COVID-19 PPE such as masks can be deadly to wildlife. Animals around the world are eating or getting entangled in single-use masks and gloves" ([sciencenews](#))
- "Deep cleaning isn't a victimless crime. The CDC has finally said what scientists have been screaming for months: The coronavirus is overwhelmingly spread through the air, not via surfaces." ([theatlantic](#))
- "US intelligence community warns of devastating long-term impact of coronavirus pandemic" ([cnn](#))
- "Mexico is the country with the most medical personnel killed by coronavirus" ([forbes_mx](#))
- "Covid-19: why the more contagious variant identified in Brazil worries France" ([francetvinfo](#))

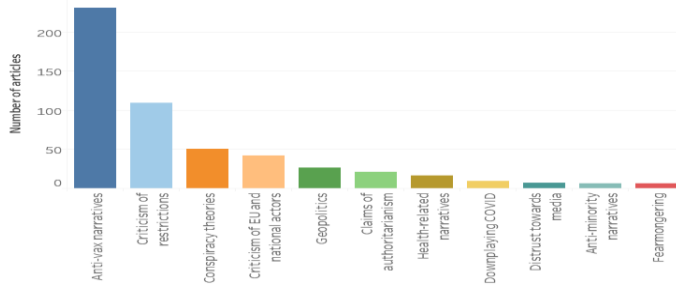
The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, Reuters, AP news, the Guardian and CTV News.

El Destape, Latinus, Infobae and El Diario, and Francetvinfo and RTL were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.



Misinformation

523 articles from unverified sources were selected forming 11 supernarratives over the last week:



The treemap shows the narratives and subnarratives associated with anti-vax articles. The colours represent the narratives, while the text indicates each subnarrative. The bigger the size of the box, the higher the number of articles tagged as that narrative and subnarrative.



- Anti-vax narratives
- Anti-vax conspiracy theories
- Anti-mandatory vaccination narratives



Fact Check

- Fact checkers debunk claims that American hip-hop artist DMX received the COVID-19 vaccine days before his heart attack and death, reporting that DMX did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine the week before his cardiac arrest ([usatoday](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID-19 vaccines do not prevent infection or transmission of the disease, reporting that evidence shows vaccines have a significant effect on the infection rate of COVID-19 and reduce transmission ([fullfact](#)).
- Fact checkers address an American cardiologist's claims that there is no reason for healthy people under the age of 50 or those who have recovered from COVID-19 to be vaccinated, reporting that medical experts agree that younger people should be inoculated because they can still be affected by the virus, and that the shots also benefit those who have already had the disease ([afp](#)).