

COVID-19 media surveillance

7 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 nearly 180 thousand articles per day on Monday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

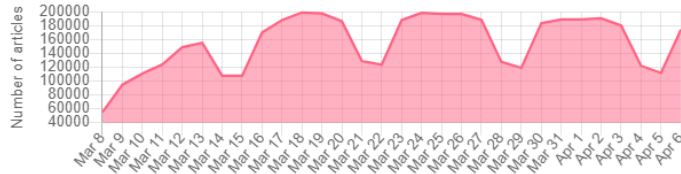


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: nearly [370,000 cases and 11,000 deaths](#); [delays and shortages exacerbate testing gaps](#)
- Spain: [deaths fall to 637, the lowest figure since March 24](#); [centers are being prepared to isolate asymptomatic Covid-19 patients](#)
- Italy: [132,547 cases and 16,523 deaths reported](#); Italian regions [began antibody testing to evaluate immunity](#); [400 billion EUR stimulus package announced](#)
- France's [coronavirus death rate accelerates as cases near 100,000](#); [833 deaths making Monday worst day so far](#)
- Germany: [more than 100,000 cases in Germany](#); discussion about gradual [easing of lockdown measures after 19 April](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [20,814 confirmed cases in Belgium](#); Red Cross Belgium calls on [recovered men to donate blood plasma for research on antibodies](#); [41 deaths in Luxembourg while cases increase moderately](#)
- Greece: [concerns mount for Greek migrant camps](#)
- UK: Prime Minister [Boris Johnson moved to intensive care unit](#); foreign secretary [Dominic Raab to lead coronavirus response](#)
- Switzerland: [steady increase in cases](#)
- Israel will go into a [four-day national lockdown](#) starting on Tuesday to stem the outbreak during the Jewish Passover holiday
- Russia: [Moscow has most of Russian COVID-19 cases](#)
- Brazil: [rift between President Bolsonaro and state governors about lockdown measures](#)
- Chile mandates [face masks on public and private transportation](#)
- India: [first case in Mumbai's Dharavi neighbourhood](#) called Asia's 'largest slum'
- South Korea: [fewer than 50 cases for second day](#); [two patients recover after plasma therapy](#)
- Japan: [state of emergency to cover Tokyo, Osaka and five other prefectures](#); [Japan to offer anti-flu drug Avigan to 20 virus-hit nations for free](#)
- China: [32 new imported cases as Wuhan lockdown due to end on Wednesday](#); nearly [half a million Chinese companies](#) close in first quarter



Twitter

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

- "Boris Johnson moved to intensive care as symptoms worsen" ([bbc](#))
- "Spain's tragedy was all too predictable" ([bloomberg](#))
- "Susan Rice on Trump's coronavirus response: He has cost tens of thousands of American lives" ([washingtontimes](#))
- "Trump's aggressive advocacy of malaria drug for treating coronavirus divides medical community" ([nytimes](#))

The following hashtags were trending:

- [#borisjohnson](#) due to Boris Johnson's transfer to intensive care
- [#mailinballotfraud](#) due to discussions about mail-in and absentee votes in the US

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

El Diario, El País, El Correo, El Mundo, Inofbae and Russia Today (Spanish Version), and Le Parisien and Le Monde were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Angela Merkel (Germany, Chancellor):

"Auch Deutschland wird es auf Dauer nur gut gehen, wenn es Europa gut geht."

Olivier Veran (France, Health Minister):

"Nous ne sommes pas au bout de l'ascension épidémique. Les chiffres le démontrent."

Yves Stevens (Belgium, National Crisis Centre):

"We have the situation under control, but we must keep on persevering"; "The large majority of the population followed the measures strictly, also during the sunny weekend. It is important that we keep doing that, also during the Easter break."

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear mongering

- Italy has not resorted to mass graves for coronavirus victims ([facta](#), [snopes](#)).
- One of Madrid's main avenues has not been filled with coffins ([efe](#)).
- WHO has not released a global lockdown timeline for COVID-19 ([thequint](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- It is not true that Cuba created a medicine that cures COVID-19 ([animalpolitico](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Hospitals with empty beds do not prove that COVID-19 is a "fake crisis". There are hospitals with significant numbers of empty beds, but that is because they are canceling non-urgent surgeries and other procedures in an effort to free up bed space for an expected influx of coronavirus patients ([politifact](#)).
- There is no scientific connection between the coronavirus outbreak and the implementation of 5G technology ([open](#)).
- The coronavirus crisis is not a governmental cover-up for the deployment of 5G network towers ([leadstories](#)).
- There is no evidence that the novel coronavirus is a bioweapon created by China ([open](#)).