

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 Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

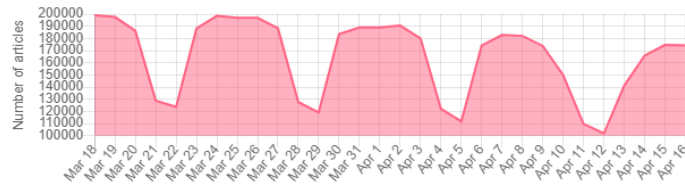


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: [Coronavirus taskforce unveiled a set of federal guidelines for reopening the economy](#); [another 5.24 million people filed for unemployment benefits last week, a total of 22.2 million since 14 March](#)
- Spain: [government advisors support reopening Spanish schools in September](#)
- Italy: [investigation launched into suspicious care-home deaths in Milan](#)
- France: [death toll nears 18,000, but the number of patients in intensive care has fallen for eight days](#)
- UK: [shortages of personal protective equipment](#) are reported as [British textile firms are enlisted](#); [the lockdown is extended for at least three weeks](#)
- Germany: [new cases rose by more than 3,380](#); [contact tracing app will be ready in three to four weeks](#)
- Dutch [study of blood donors suggests 3% of population may have coronavirus antibodies](#)
- EU: [Ursula von der Leyen offered 'heartfelt apology' to Italy over coronavirus response](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [34,809 cases in Belgium](#); [in Luxembourg, every citizen will receive five face masks](#)
- Brazil: [President Bolsonaro fired health minister](#)
- New Zealand: [Debate over when and how to ease New Zealand's lockdown turns personal](#)
- India [has banned the use of video-conferencing app Zoom for government remote meetings](#)
- Singapore [reported record 447 new cases mostly linked to workers' dormitories](#)
- South Korea: [22 new cases, of which 11 were detected at airport checkpoints](#)
- Japan: [nationwide state of emergency was declared](#); [distribution of reusable cloth face masks dubbed "Abenomasks" started](#); [third Japanese cabinet official tested positive](#)
- China: death toll in Wuhan was [corrected from 2,579 to 3,869 deaths](#); [China's economy shrank 6.8% in the three months of 2020](#), the country's first such contraction on record
- [G7 leaders voiced their backing for the WHO and urged international co-operation](#)
- Economy: IMF predicts [zero growth in Latin America and the Caribbean for decade to 2025](#); debate whether the coronavirus crisis could pave the way to [universal basic income](#)



Twitter

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

- Socially Distance This. Carnival executives knew they had a virus problem, but kept the party going ([bloomberg](#))
- These medical workers are tackling the coronavirus. They're also saddled with student debt ([nbcnews](#))
- Taiwan provides 2 million masks to Japan ([nhk](#))
- Early peek at data on Gilead coronavirus drug suggests patients are responding to treatment ([statnews](#); see also hashtag [#remdesivir](#))
- Facebook will steer users who interact with coronavirus misinformation to WHO ([politico](#))

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

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission, President):

"Too many were not there on time when Italy needed a helping hand at the very beginning"; "And yes, for that it is right that Europe as a whole offers a heartfelt apology."

Chung Sye-kyun (South Korea, Prime Minister):

"The spread of COVID-19 infection has clearly slowed in April. But taking a close look, it feels like the calm before the storm"; "The number might be low, but we continue to see patients whose transmission routes are unknown, which I suspect to be transmission through those showing no symptoms".

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear mongering

- Fact checkers debunk a video claiming to show an Italian businessman committing suicide after he lost his family to the novel coronavirus ([boomlive](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that an Indian woman drowned her children because she was unable to feed them during the lockdown ([boomlive](#)).

Fact checked: prevention

- Fact checkers keep debunking claims about the use of garlic and hot water as protections or cures for COVID-19 ([poynter](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers continue to reiterate that there is no connection between 5G technology and the novel coronavirus ([poynter](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a fake quote attributed to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, according to which Bill Gates is employing COVID-19 to destabilise Africa and Africans should not wear face masks because they contain toxic substances ([bbc](#)).

Fact checked: role of fact checkers

- Spanish fact checkers debunk claims that they are censoring private messages spread through WhatsApp - the false claims refer to WhatsApp's decision to limit message-forwarding in an effort to stem the spread of misinformation ([newtral](#), [maldita](#)).