

COVID-19 media surveillance

27 August 2020; 20:30 weekly brief

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) remains a major news topic, with 80 thousand articles per day on Wednesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

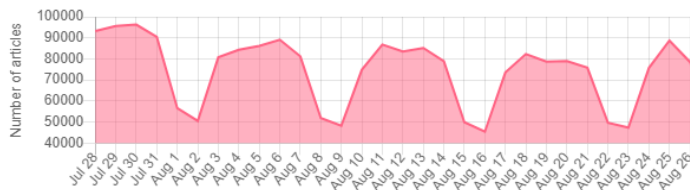


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)

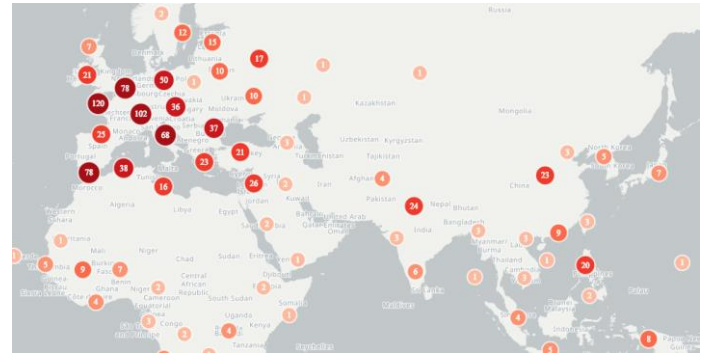


Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing clusters of media reports on Italy, France, Spain, Germany, the UK, Russia, India, China, South Korea and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- The US allows [emergency use of blood plasma from recovered coronavirus patients as a treatment](#)
- Brazil registers [more than 3.7 million cases since start of pandemic](#)
- Spain reports [more than 7,000 cases with Madrid being most affected](#)
- Italy reports [increasing case numbers for the fourth week with the average age of patients falling to 29 years](#)
- France reports [6,111 new infections, second-highest level ever; Tour de France in doubt after Covid red alert issued before Grand Départ in Nice](#)
- Germany is to [ban large events until the end of this year](#)
- Belgium [bans travel to Paris amid resurgence of cases in French capital](#)
- Luxembourg: Germany plans [mandatory coronavirus tests for travelers from Luxembourg](#)
- Trade Commissioner [Phil Hogan resigned from the European Commission following accusations he attended a golfing dinner in breach of Ireland's coronavirus restrictions](#)
- Russia's [cases surpass 975,000](#)
- Gaza [entered lockdown after first cases of local transmission](#)
- South Africa registers [2,684 new cases in one day having the highest number of confirmed cases on continent](#)
- India is [leading the world in new cases](#)
- Australia's state of [Victoria reported 113 new cases](#)
- New Zealand reports [seven new cases, of which six involve local transmission](#)
- South Korea [considers near lockdown measures due to the biggest single-day increase since March 7 with 441 new cases](#)
- China reported [eight new cases, all of which involve travelers from overseas](#)
- Hong Kong scientists reported the [case of a healthy man in his 30s who became re-infected](#)
- Japan's [no-entry list was extended to 159 countries.](#)



Twitter

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

- "Travel from New York City seeded wave of U.S. outbreaks. The coronavirus outbreak in New York City became the primary source of infections around the United States, researchers have found." ([nytimes](#))
- "Nearly 9,000 Florida children diagnosed with coronavirus in two weeks as schools reopen" ([newsweek](#))
- "Fauci says rushing out a vaccine could jeopardize testing of others" ([reuters](#))
- "The Wall Street Journal lists Spain as an example of «wasted effort» against the coronavirus" ([abc](#))
- "Six months ago, Trump said that coronavirus cases would soon go to zero. They ... didn't." ([washingtonpost](#))
- "Jerry Seinfeld: So You Think New York Is 'Dead' (It's not.)" ([nytimes](#))

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

El Pais, Infobae, El Diario, and ABC, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Anthony Fauci (USA, NIAID director):

"The one thing that you would not want to see with a vaccine is getting an emergency use authorization before you have a signal of efficacy"; "One of the potential dangers if you prematurely let a vaccine out is that it would make it difficult, if not impossible, for the other vaccines to enroll people in their trial."

Fact Check

- Fact checkers debunk Madagascar’s President Andry Rajoelina’s claims that Covid-Organics, a drink derived from medicinal herbs, cures/prevents COVID-19 (stopfake.org).
- Italian fact checkers debunk the claim that the Cotugno Hospital in Naples has exhausted the available places for COVID-19 patients (facta.news).
- Fact checkers debunk an Indian claim that Thyrocare lab has been sealed in Thane by the government for diagnosing fake COVID positive reports to people (vishvasnews).
- Fact checkers continue to debunk claims that children are immune to COVID-19 (misbar).
- Fact checkers also debunk a claim with an ‘official’ WHO document in which WHO does not recommend wearing a face mask during COVID-19 (misbar).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Bosnian Serb politician Milorad Dodik said the COVID-19 vaccine will be mandatory, reporting that the politicians recently claimed the opposite, that is, that vaccination will be voluntary (raskrinkavanje.ba).
- Fact checkers debunk the claim that Ukrainian soldiers have died after having an American COVID-19 vaccine (fullfact).
- Fact checkers also debunked the claim that Russia is gifting Pakistan one million COVID vaccines (newschecker).
- Fact checkers debunk the second part of “Plandemic”, released on 18 August. Among other things, the documentary-style video suggests that the novel coronavirus was man-made and intentionally released (factcheck.org).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Tanzania ejected the WHO from the country because Tanzania’s President John Magufuli had grown skeptical of the UN health agency (pesacheck).
- Fact checkers debunk a Facebook post that Madonna predicted the COVID-19 pandemic on a concert in 2019 (facta.news).
- Fact checkers continue to debunk claims spread in the US that under the COVID legislation kids with COVID symptoms can be quarantined without parental consent (misbar).