

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 100 thousand articles per day on Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

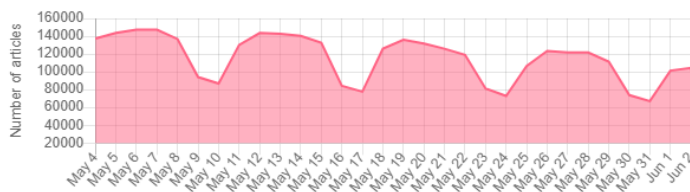


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus; data shown till 2 June (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- USA: [unemployment rate seen near 20% as Covid-19 affects jobs market again in May](#); CDC director says protesters should consider getting tested for coronavirus
- Brazil [registers record Covid-19 deaths as speed of pandemic grows in most states](#) surpassing Italy
- UK records [more new COVID-19 deaths than entire EU combined](#)
- Spain: [Government backtracks on tourism minister's claim that land borders with Portugal and France would open on 22 June](#)
- Italy records [88 new deaths and 177 new cases on Thursday](#)
- France: [the epidemic is 'controlled' in France according to the president of the scientific council](#)
- Germany: [virus infection rate drops further and new cases remain low](#)
- Belgium has [highest mortality rate per capita from coronavirus in the world](#)
- Luxembourg [records three new cases, no additional deaths](#)
- Russia's [cases close to 450,000](#)
- Mexico sees [record increase in cases with 816 more deaths](#)
- India: one of the main reasons for the [decline in growth at national level is the fact that Maharashtra has been slowing down for more than two weeks](#)
- Singapore plans [wearable virus contact tracing device for all](#)
- Myanmar: [the first Rohingya refugee dies from Covid-19](#)
- South Africa [records biggest jump in Covid-19 cases since pandemic hit](#)
- Iran [fears second wave after surge in cases](#)
- Pakistan reported a [surge of infections with 89,249 cases](#)
- South Korea: [sporadic outbreaks in the capital area and untraceable infections have deepened public health concerns; small religious gatherings spur virus concerns](#)
- Japan: [Tokyo reports 20 new cases](#)
- China: provincial health commission announced that [Hubei Province has 'cleared all its confirmed cases' on Thursday](#)
- Science: [The Lancet retracts hydroxychloroquine study](#)



Twitter

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

- "COVID-19 can last for several months. The disease's 'long-haulers' have endured relentless waves of debilitating symptoms – and disbelief from doctors and friends" ([theatlantic](#))
- "Authors ask to retract study on chloroquine published in the Lancet" ([globo](#))
- "NHS test-and-trace system 'not fully operational until September'" ([theguardian](#))
- "Tear gas is way more dangerous than police let on – especially during the coronavirus pandemic" ([propublica](#))
- "Law enforcement seizes masks meant to protect anti-racist protesters from COVID-19" ([huffpost](#))
- "Coronavirus likely forced 27 million off their health insurance" ([axios](#))

The hashtag #coronaviruspakistan is on the rise following the surge of cases in Pakistan.

The most mentioned English sources were the Guardian, Huffington Post, the New York Times and the Independent.

El Pais, Clarin, Publico, El Universal and El Comercio, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Joon-wook Kwon (South Korea, Korea CDC):

"COVID-19 is spreading at various spaces and meetings, such as small religious groups, internet cafes and after-school private academies, in the populated capital region, where there are many people who move around"; "Based on the recent pattern of virus spread, we are concerned about a potential wave of large-scale infections at closed and crowded places".

Taro Aso (Japan, Finance Minister):

"I have received phone calls from overseas asking 'Do you have any drug that only you guys have?' My answer is the level of cultural standard is different, and then they fall silent".



Fact Check

Fact checked: fear-mongering claims

- Fact checkers debunk a video claiming to show an empty church in Italy after almost all of its congregants died from COVID-19, reporting that the video shows a church in the US state of Mississippi during an online Easter service in April 2020 ([afpfactcheck](#)).

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk what deceptively appears to be a tweet by Tanzania's President John Pombe Magufuli claiming that face masks have been banned in the country ([africacheck](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the prolonged use of face masks causes hypoxia, that is, an absence of enough oxygen in the tissues to sustain bodily functions ([cocuyochequea](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Italian doctors discovered that COVID-19 is caused by a bacterium - not a virus - and can be cured with antibiotics & anti-inflammatory drugs ([thequint](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Brazilian fact checkers debunk a photo showing a woman carrying a body bag with one hand, claiming that "they invent deaths, [...] they steal COVID-19 money, they terrorise the population. And then blame it on Bolsonaro"; the fact checkers report that the photo is from a protest against the mismanagement of the coronavirus crisis in the US, in which the bags were supposed to represent COVID-19 deaths ([agencialupa](#)).