

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

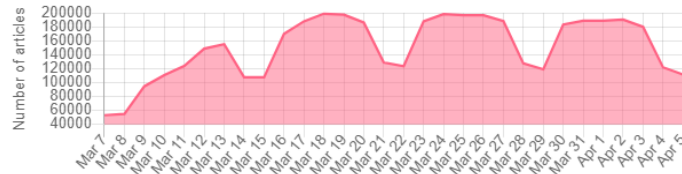


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: [Surgeon General predicts hardest week as deaths spike; official counts might understate death toll](#)
- Italy: [128,948 cases and 15,887 deaths reported in total on 2 April at 18:00; death toll decreased to lowest number in two weeks](#)
- Spain: Prime Minister [Sánchez calls for European Marshall Plan; downward trend in daily deaths continued on Sunday; state of emergency prolonged until 26 April](#); reports of [villages erecting barriers](#)
- France: [daily death toll fell to 357 deaths on Sunday](#)
- Germany [reports fourth day with drop in daily cases](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [19,691 confirmed cases in Belgium; aim of 40 to 50 thousand tests per day in Belgium; 2,804 cases and 36 deaths in Luxembourg](#)
- UK: Prime Minister [Boris Johnson hospitalized](#)
- Brazil: [11,130 cases and 486 deaths reported](#)
- Iran: [cases rise to 58,226](#)
- Singapore: [surge in new cases as month-long lockdown announced](#)
- South Korea [reports fewer than 50 new cases but clusters in Seoul area remain of concern](#); more [patients being diagnosed with COVID-19 twice](#); fight may [drag on for months, years](#) according to experts
- Japan: [state of emergency to be declared from Wednesday amid surge in cases](#)
- China: [rise in asymptomatic cases](#)
- Mask Wars: [bidding wars on protective equipment; difficulty of securing deliveries as customers outbid each other](#)



Twitter

The following news were found among the most retweeted items:

- The U.S. was beset by denial and dysfunction as the coronavirus raged ([washingtonpost](#))
- Fox News is sued for 'willfully and maliciously deceiving the public' about the dangers of the coronavirus as owner Rupert Murdoch vows to fight 'frivolous' lawsuit ([dailymail](#))
- They were the last couple in paradise. Now their resort life continues. ([nytimes](#))
- Fauci says it would be 'false statement' to say we have coronavirus under control ([thehill](#))
- From afar, congress moves to oversee Trump coronavirus response ([nytimes](#))
- Navy captain removed from carrier tests positive for COVID-19 ([nytimes](#))

The hashtag [#globalceasefire](#) got traction over the last days following a campaign by the United Nations.

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

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Jerome Adams (USA, Surgeon General):

“This is going to be the hardest and the saddest week of most Americans’ lives, quite frankly. This is going to be our Pearl Harbor moment, our 9/11 moment, only it’s not going to be localized”; “It’s going to be happening all over the country. And I want America to understand that.”

Kim Woo-joo (South Korea, Seoul University Hospital):

“COVID-19 is the trickiest and most terrifying infectious disease I have seen in my 30 years of practice” ; “It makes other diseases that came before – including SARS, MERS, Ebola – look less intimidating.”

Pedro Sánchez (Spain, Prime Minister):

“It is time to act with solidarity in creating a new debt mutualisation mechanism, acting as a single bloc for the purchase of essential medical supplies, establishing coordinated cybersecurity strategies, and preparing a major emergency plan to ensure that the continent’s recovery is rapid and robust.”



Fact Check

Fact checked: spread of coronavirus

- There is no evidence that the novel coronavirus can spread through food, and the WHO did not warn against eating cabbage during the COVID-19 pandemic ([afp](#)).
- There is no evidence yet supporting the claim that the novel coronavirus will fade in the summer ([theguardian](#), [facta](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- There is no evidence that drinking coffee and tea, gargling salt water and inhaling eucalyptus oil vapour can prevent COVID-19 ([maldita](#), [afp](#), [maldita](#)).
- Spanish hospitals are not treating coronavirus patients with MMS or sodium chlorite ([maldita](#)).
- There are not peer-reviewed clinical studies yet to prove that chloroquine is effective against the symptoms of, or can protect against, the new coronavirus ([fullfact](#), [sciencepresse](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Microchip implants are not being employed in the fight against coronavirus ([reuters](#), [faktograf](#)).
- There is no evidence that 5G networks are linked to the new coronavirus ([faktograf](#)).