

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

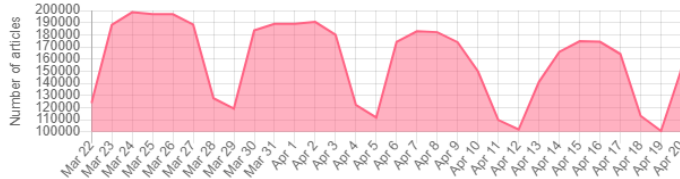


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: new epidemic surge expected as [protesters across the US flout social distancing measures](#); some US states plan to [re-open economy despite coronavirus testing concerns](#); [immigration to US to be suspended amid pandemic](#)
- Spain: [daily coronavirus deaths fell to 399 while confirmed cases now exceed 200,000](#); [Health Ministry canceled an entire order of faulty antigen kits](#)
- Italy records [first fall in active virus cases](#)
- France has [stopped all flights outside Schengen zone](#); [two months of Covid-19 lockdown will cost France €120 billion](#)
- UK's National Cyber Security Centre [forces hundreds of scam Covid-19 shops offline](#)
- Germany's Bavaria state [cancels Oktoberfest](#); [lockdown restrictions are eased](#) as Germany reported 1,785 new cases and 194 additional deaths
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [Belgium tops the world in number of deaths in relation to population](#) as [39,983 confirmed cases](#) were reported; [schools in Luxembourg to reopen on 4 May](#)
- Turkey's case numbers [exceed China](#) with 86,306 cases and 2,017 deaths
- Egypt has [not yet reached peak coronavirus infection](#) according to WHO
- Brazil has [reported 2,462 deaths](#) amid fears that [health system is not ready to cope with outbreak](#)
- India reports [biggest one-day coronavirus spike as lockdown eased](#)
- Singapore's [outbreak surges with 3,000 new cases in three days](#)
- South Korea: [only nine new cases amid fears of second wave](#); [pandemic could have a negative impact on births and marriages and is feared to accelerate population decline](#)
- Japan reported [25 deaths, the country's highest tally for a single day](#)
- China: [Shaanxi province reported 21 new imported](#) cases on a commercial flight from Moscow
- Economy: [US oil prices turned negative for the first time](#)
- Science: [aerosol physics can give insight into airborne pathogen transmission](#)



## Twitter

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

- Stop Airing Trump's Briefings! The media is allowing disinformation to appear as news ([nytimes](#))
- Kentucky reports highest coronavirus infection increase after a week of protests to reopen state ([newsweek](#))
- Denmark and Poland are refusing to bail out companies registered in offshore tax havens ([businessinsider](#))
- Hundreds of thousands in L.A. County may have been infected with coronavirus, study finds ([latimes](#))
- The White house has erected a blockade stopping states and hospitals from getting coronavirus PPE ([nymag](#))

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

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

## ” *Extracted Quotes*

### **Mike Ryan (WHO, Executive Director):**

"With regards to recovery and then reinfection, I believe we do not have the answers to that. That is an unknown"; "One would expect that a person who generates a full-blown immune response with detectable antibodies should have protection for a period of time. We just don't know what that period of time is".

### **Angelo Borrelli (Italy, Head of Civil Protection):**

"For the first time, we have seen a new positive development: the number of currently positive has declined".



## *Fact Check*

### **Fact checked: fear mongering**

- Ecuadorian fact checkers debunk a video claiming to show COVID-19 victims thrown into the sea ([ecuadorchequea](#)).

### **Fact checked: anti-Chinese sentiment**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that Chinese nationals have been banned from supermarkets in Australia ([afp](#), [boomlive](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the German government sent China a bill for “coronavirus damages” ([fullfact](#)).

### **Fact checked: anti-Muslim sentiment**

- Indian fact checkers debunk claims that Muslims are throwing banknotes onto the street in an attempt to spread coronavirus ([altnews](#)). The coronavirus outbreak has led to a huge spike in anti-Muslim narratives in India.

### **Fact checked: prevention**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that baby wipes are recommended for DIY protection masks ([faktograf](#), [afp](#)).

### **Fact checked: conspiracy theories**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that China invented the novel coronavirus to take over the world ([lasillavacia](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a photo claiming to prove that the novel coronavirus is a bioweapon of the US military ([faktograf](#)).