

COVID-19 media surveillance

16 July 2020; 19:00 weekly brief

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) remains a mayor news topic, with over 90 thousand articles per day on Wednesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

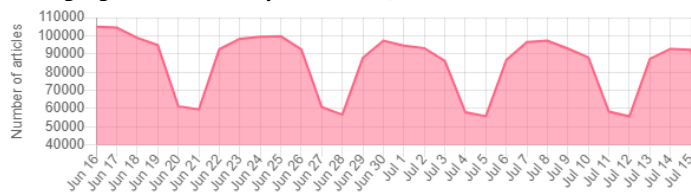


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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

- U.S. reports [record 67,400 single-day spike of new cases](#); [California restricts COVID-19 testing as cases surge](#)
- Brazil is [approaching 2 million cases with more than 1000 daily deaths as cases are on the rise in 11 states and federal district](#)
- UK's hidden problem of [rising unemployment may soon be exposed as end of furlough scheme likely to unmask true impact of coronavirus crisis on workers](#)
- Spain [releases more funds to fight Covid-19 as cases keep mounting](#)
- France makes [mask-wearing mandatory in public indoor spaces from next week](#) as cases rise again
- Germany has [surpassed 200,000 cases](#)
- Belgium is [ready to take stricter measures, if it turns out they are necessary next week, according to Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès, as the epidemic is regaining strength in the country.](#)
- Luxembourg: [experts expect second wave of cases](#)
- Hungary's government [was barring travel from Africa, most of Asia apart from China and Japan, and restricting entry from several European countries.](#)
- Israel: Cabinet to discuss [weekend lockdown as cases continue to rise](#)
- DR Congo has [given copper and cobalt mining companies a month to stop confining workers on site away from their families](#)
- India is [reaching the mark of 1 million cases today](#)
- South Korea: [new infections spike again to above 60 on surge in imported cases including 20 cases among South Korean construction workers returning from Iraq](#)
- China: [No Tokyo 2020 likely means no Beijing Winter Olympics according to IOC vice-president](#)
- Japan: [Tokyo breaks record with more than 280 cases on July 16](#)



Twitter

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

- "The coronavirus recovery plan that von der Leyen built" ([politico](#))
- "When secret coronavirus contracts are awarded without competition, it's deadly serious" ([theguardian](#))
- "Trump administration strips C.D.C. of control of Coronavirus data. Hospitals have been ordered to bypass the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and send all patient information to a central database in Washington, raising questions about transparency." ([nytimes](#))
- "Fauci: 'Bizarre' white house behavior only hurts the president. The nation's top public-health expert tells The Atlantic that he isn't going anywhere, despite the Trump administration's newest attempts to undercut him." ([theatlantic](#))
- "Dr. Anthony Fauci says U.S. coronavirus cases are surging because nation didn't totally shut down" ([cnbc](#))
- "Masks offer much more protection against coronavirus than many think" ([latimes](#))

Hashtags related to the reporting on Dr Fauci and President Trump featured prominently, e.g. #fauci, #trump and #trumphasncredibility.

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

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Sophie Wilmès (Belgium, Premier Minister):

"Since the beginning of this month, there has been a resurgence of the virus. Phase 5 has been drawn up and is scheduled to start on 1 August"; "If the trend is not good, we will not go to Phase 5. We now want to see how the trend evolves. If stricter measures need to be taken in the future, we are ready to do so. A lot has to do with our own behavior."

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear-mongering claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that there is an outbreak of an unknown type of pneumonia, more lethal than COVID-19, in Kazakhstan, reporting that Kazakhstani health officials have dismissed such claims ([factanews](#), [snopes](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that according to scientists, 80% of the world population will die of COVID-19 ([factcheck.kz](#), [stopfake](#)).

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that given that asymptomatic carriers cannot infect others, wearing masks is absurd ([stopfake](#)).

Fact checked: anti-vax claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that influenza vaccines contain coronaviruses ([afpfactcheck](#)). Such claims were popularised by discredited researcher Judy Mikovits in the viral "Plandemic" video.

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk a photo claiming to show former Barack Obama, Dr Anthony Fauci and Melinda Gates at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in 2015, checking on the progress of the creation of SARS-CoV-2. The photo was taken at a US lab and the woman in the photo is not Melinda Gates ([afpfactual](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a video claiming to show French doctors throwing their white coats to the floor in protest of the "corona fraud". The video was filmed before the first case of coronavirus was diagnosed in France ([correctiv](#)).
- Fact checkers continue to debunk claims that Nobel laureate Denis Mukwege resigned from the coronavirus task force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo because he was offered money to falsify COVID-19 cases ([politifact](#)). These false claims have been circulating on social media for over a month.