

COVID-19 media surveillance

1 April 2021; 22:30 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 75 thousand articles per day (in 70 languages, as detected by [EMM/MEDISYS](#)).

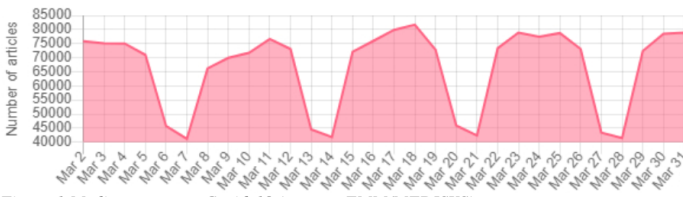


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Figure 2 Geolocations mentioned in coronavirus media reports showing clusters of media reports (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- US: [signs of fourth wave](#) as [thousands of cases of the B.1.1.7 strain](#) have been reported; close to [100 million Americans have received at least one dose of the vaccine](#)
- Brazil [faces health system collapse as covid-19 cases skyrocket](#)
- Spain: [fourth wave feared as country is on level three of its four-stage alert system](#)
- France could hit the [peak of the third wave in 7 to 10 days](#) according to Health Minister Olivier Veran; President [Macron announced nationwide lockdown](#)
- Italy to remain in [partial lockdown until end of April](#); vaccination made [mandatory for all health workers](#)
- Poland has extended [vaccine availability to the over-40s, but later restricted online registrations](#)
- Sweden to offer all adults [first vaccine shot by August 15](#), later than planned
- Belgium: Police dispersed [2,000 people at Belgian April Fool party in the Bois de la Cambre park](#)
- Luxembourg: Parliament votes to [reopen terraces even as cases rise](#)
- Egypt [received 854,400 vaccine doses shipped by COVAX](#)
- Israel: [active COVID-19 cases drop to lowest level since June 2020](#)
- India [speeds up vaccinations as cases soar again](#)
- New Zealand reported [five border-related cases in managed isolation](#)
- China's [Yunnan Province reported six new cases](#) on Wednesday
- Japan: [Olympic organizers denied rumours that Osaka torch relay has been cancelled due to spike of cases](#)



Twitter

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

- "Belgium must lift 'all Covid-19 measures' within 30 days, Brussels court rules" ([brusselstimes](#))
- "Avoiding coronavirus infection in indoor spaces: don't breathe other people's air" ([elpais](#))
- "Opinion: The GOP is facing a sickness deeper than the coronavirus" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "A City remade. Remote Work Is Here to Stay. Manhattan May Never Be the Same." ([nytimes](#))
- "Against the odds, Cuba could become a coronavirus vaccine powerhouse" ([washingtonpost](#))

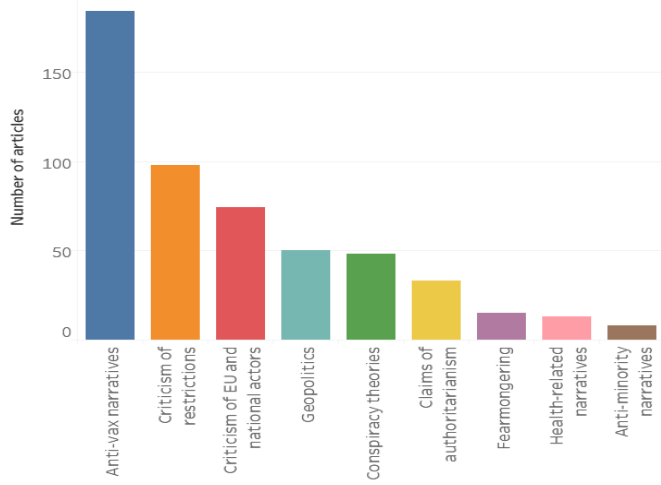
The most mentioned English sources were the Washington Post, AP news, the New York Times, Reuters and CNN.

El Diario, El Pais, Latinus, and Francetvinfo and 20minutes were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.



Misinformation

523 articles from unverified sources were selected forming 9 supernarratives over the last week:



Fact Check

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the Pfizer CEO refused the COVID-19 vaccine, reporting that the claims are based on an interview that took place on 14 December 2020 and that he has received the vaccine in the meantime ([usatoday](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a COVID-19 vaccine “Q&A” sheet, which has been circulating on social media, spreading claims that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are experimental, have not been tested on animals, have not been subject to medium or long term safety testing on humans, and others suggesting that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be dangerous ([fullfact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID-19 vaccines are “barcodes for life” as they are used to identify and track people ([rappler](#)).