

COVID-19 media surveillance

25 May 2020; 9:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with nearly 80 thousand articles per day on Sunday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

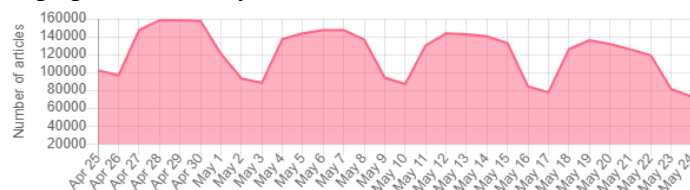


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- USA: [death toll near 100,000](#); US [suspends travel from Brazil for foreigners](#); Memorial Day weekend led to [public gatherings often ignoring social distancing guidelines](#)
- Brazil has become the [second most-affected country after the USA with 365,213 cases and 22,746 deaths](#); Brazil's [indigenous people are dying at an alarming rate](#); president [Bolsonaro subject to public anger after stepping out in Brasilia on fast food errand](#)
- UK: [schools in England scheduled to reopen on 1 June](#); debate on Boris Johnson's [senior adviser Cummings' travel during lockdown](#)
- Spain: [cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions in Spain at lowest level since March](#); many areas will be moving to [different stages of the government's coronavirus deescalation plan](#) today
- Italy [reports 50 new deaths as mayors step up restrictions](#)
- France has [lowest daily increase in new cases and deaths since lockdown](#)
- Germany: [more than 100 cases traced back to Frankfurt church services](#)
- Belgium [reported 282 new cases and 43 deaths on Sunday](#)
- Luxembourg: [elementary schools open today as two new cases and one death were reported on Sunday](#)
- Russia records [its highest daily death toll from the coronavirus as its number of new cases appears to decline](#)
- India [among 10 worst virus-hit nations after 4 days of record spikes](#)
- Egypt reports [752 new cases on Sunday and 29 deaths](#)
- New Zealand [eases coronavirus curbs on public gatherings](#) allowing gatherings of up to 100 people
- South Korea is considering [strengthening mask-use guidelines and requirements for public transport nationwide; air-conditioned buses in Seoul to circulate with open windows](#)
- Japan: [infections rise in Tokyo and Hokkaido as Japan is likely to completely lift state of emergency next Monday](#)
- China reports [11 new mainland cases vs three a day earlier](#)



Twitter

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

- "Study estimates 24 states still have uncontrolled coronavirus spread" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "CDC: Coronavirus fatality rate could be as low as 0.26%. Earlier estimates pegged the rate significantly higher" ([justthenews](#))
- "Pastor who claimed to cure coronavirus with faith dies of coronavirus" ([huffpost](#))
- "Dominic Cummings ignored coronavirus lockdown rules for second time to visit parents" ([mirror](#))
- "22 days of dither and delay on coronavirus that cost thousands of British lives. Scientists, politicians, academics and advisers reveal the inside story of ministers' desperate battle with the virus before the country finally locked down" ([thetimes](#))
- "The project behind a front page full of names. A presentation of obituaries and death notices from newspapers around the country tries to frame incalculable loss" ([nytimes](#))

The hashtag [#dominiccummings](#), [#sackcumings](#) and [#cumings](#) trended in the UK as Boris Johnson's senior adviser Dominic Cummings ignored lockdown rules ([bbc](#)).

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

La Nacion, Infobae, El Diario and El Pais, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Michael Ryan (UK, Executive Director):

"In a sense South America has become the new epicenter of the disease"; "We are seeing the number of cases increasing in many South American countries (...) but clearly the most affected at this point is Brazil".

Tedros Adhanom (WHO, Director-General):

"Initial analysis suggests the provision of routine immunisation services is substantially hindered in at least 68 countries and is likely to affect approximately 80 million children under the age of one living in these countries".

Boris Johnson (UK, Prime Minister):

"I have had extensive face-to-face conversations with Dominic Cummings and I have concluded that in travelling to find the right kind of childcare, at the moment when both he and his wife were about to be incapacitated by coronavirus and when he had no alternative I think he followed the instincts of every father and every parent".

Steve Reicher (UK, Professor of Social Psychology at University of St Andrews):

"If you look at the research it shows the reason why people observed lockdown was not for themselves, it wasn't because they were personally at risk, they did it for the community, they did it because of a sense of 'we're all in this together'. If you give the impression there's one rule for them and one rule for us you fatally undermine that sense of 'we're all in this together' and you undermine adherence to the forms of behaviour which have got us through this crisis."

Fact Check

Fact checked: health claims

- Fact checkers debunk the claim made by the British tabloid *The Express* that "diabetes is linked to a quarter of pandemic deaths in England", reporting that while about a quarter of COVID-19 patients who died in English hospital also had diabetes, that does not mean that diabetes was definitely linked to all those deaths ([fullfact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a viral post claiming that ivermectin "kills the coronavirus in 48 hours", reporting that although an *in-vitro* study showed that the antiparasitic drug inhibits the virus that causes COVID-19, its effectiveness in people has not been clinically proven yet ([afpfactual](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the WHO is trying to mix poison with Madagascar's (unproven) herbal remedy to cure COVID-19 ([youturn](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that according to French microbiologist Didier Raoult, the novel coronavirus was created by the US and China to exterminate Africans ([asianetnews](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the new coronavirus does not exist and it is part of a plot by Bill Gates to vaccinate and thus control the world population ([fatabyvano](#)).