

COVID-19 media surveillance

3 April 2020; 09:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 180 thousand articles per day on Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

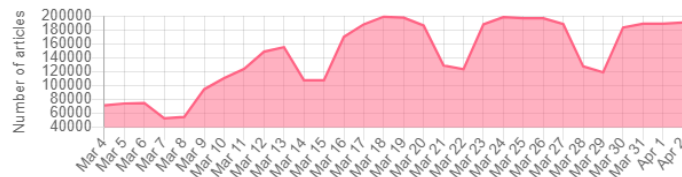


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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: [more than 245,500 cases and over 6,000 deaths](#) reported; NIAID director [Fauci called for a federally mandated stay-at-home order](#); [Zaandam and Rotterdam cruise ships docked at Fort Lauderdale](#); more than [6.65 million people have filed for unemployment benefits](#) last week
- Italy: [115,242 cases and 13,915 deaths](#) reported in total on 2 April at 18:00; the [decrease in case numbers](#) has become more stable
- Spain: [950 deaths in 24 hours](#); [worst month of March on record for labor market](#)
- France: [471 deaths in 24 hours](#); [lockdown probably to be extended beyond April 15](#) according to prime minister Edouard Philippe
- Germany: [more than 2,300 health care workers tested positive](#); there are [large regional differences in the growth of case numbers](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [after extension till 19 April, Belgium plans to end lockdown in phases](#); [15,384 confirmed cases and 1,011 deaths reported in total in Belgium](#); [nearly 2,500 cases in total in Luxembourg](#)
- Hungary: [Journalists fear coronavirus law may be used to jail them](#)
- Brazil: [mortality rose to 3.8 % as 7,910 cases were reported](#); [first case discovered to have occurred in January](#)
- Peru becomes the latest country to embrace gender-based quarantine
- Iran: [parliament speaker tested positive](#)
- Singapore: [49 new cases with three new clusters](#)
- South Korea: [cases surpass 10,000 with 86 new cases in 24 hours](#) and a new [cluster linked to a public bath](#) in Gangwon Province
- Japan: [13 new clusters detected doubling last count](#)
- China: [31 more cases reported, 29 of which were imported](#); [testing finds more symptom-free cases](#)
- Economy: [Farmers across Europe bank on improvised armies of pickers](#) to save harvest



Twitter

The following news were found among the most retweeted items:

- Jared Kushner is going to get us all killed ([nytimes](#))
- Navy removes aircraft carrier captain who raised alarm about coronavirus response ([washingtontimes](#))
- Where America didn't stay home even as the virus spread ([nytimes](#))
- The 1,000-Bed Comfort was supposed to aid New York. It has 20 patients ([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 Politico.

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission, President):

"Every available Euro in the EU budget will be directed to address the coronavirus crisis, rule will be eased to enable the funding to flow rapidly and effectively. With the new solidarity instrument, SURE, the EU will mobilise €100 bn to keep people in jobs & businesses running."

Ahmed Al-Mandhari (WHO; director for the Eastern Mediterranean region):

"New cases have been reported in some of the most vulnerable countries with fragile health systems"; "Even in countries with stronger health systems, we have seen a worrying spike in the numbers of cases and deaths reported".

Dr Anthony Fauci (USA, Director of NIAID):

"I don't understand why every state hasn't issued stay-at-home orders".

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear mongering

- There is no evidence that COVID-19 causes male infertility ([factcheck](#)).
- Hantavirus is not a new virus from China and is not likely to cause an epidemic ([efe](#)).

Fact checked: coronavirus is not dangerous

- An interview with a doctor denying the existence of a health emergency linked to the COVID-19 pandemic is debunked ([open](#)).

Fact checked: prevention and treatment

- There is no evidence that ibuprofen or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can make COVID-19 cases more severe ([factcheck](#)).
- Drinking black tea and pepper soup does not cure COVID-19 ([bbc](#)).
- COVID-19 vaccines are not being tested on Africans. There is no vaccine for COVID-19 yet and only few clinical trials are taking place, none of them currently in African countries ([bbc](#)).
- The flu vaccine and the pneumococcal vaccine do not protect against SARS-CoV-2 ([butac](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- There is no evidence that 5G WiFi networks are linked to the new coronavirus ([fullfact](#)).