

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 140 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, India, China, South Korea and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



Headlines

- USA: [nine US states consider reopening the economy](#) as 23,000 deaths were reported; President Trump [showed campaign-style video during press conference](#); [nearly 600 cases and 1 death after outbreak on USS Theodore Roosevelt](#)
- Spain: [number of daily deaths fell to 517](#); construction and manufacturing allowed to restart amid [debate whether ease of lockdown is still too soon](#)
- Italy: [3,153 new cases, the fewest registered since April 7](#); [lockdown in place until 3 May](#)
- France: [lockdown extended until 11 May](#)
- UK: [outbreaks at more than 2,000 care homes in England](#); UK [missed three chances to join EU scheme to bulk-buy PPE](#)
- Cases in the vicinity of EU institutions: [Belgium reaches 30,589 confirmed cases](#), all [nursing homes and care facilities to be tested](#); [three further deaths in Luxembourg](#)
- Germany: [debate on easing restrictions as new cases drop](#)
- Austria: [some shops reopen today as lockdown eased](#)
- Denmark: [schools and day care centres can reopen from Wednesday](#)
- Turkey: [61,049 confirmed cases](#); [three inmates in open prisons died from COVID-19](#)
- Russia reported its [highest daily number of cases yet with 2,558 cases](#)
- India: [lockdown extended until 3 May](#)
- Brazil: [case numbers expected to be 12 times higher than official 23,430 confirmed cases](#); [chloroquine study halted after patients developed irregular heart rates](#)
- Saudi Arabia: [rapid rise of cases in Mecca](#)
- South Korea: [27 new cases reported, less than 50 cases for sixth day](#); [national elections take place on 15 April](#)
- Japan: [Hokkaido declared a new state of emergency amid 'second wave' of coronavirus infections](#)
- China: [majority of new cases from region bordering Russia](#)
- Tech: [android and apple phones to receive contact tracing system](#)



Twitter

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

- What do countries with the best coronavirus responses have in common? Women leaders ([forbes](#))
- Virginia pastor who defiantly held church service dies of coronavirus ([nypost](#))
- Beijing tightens grip over coronavirus research, amid US-China row on virus origin ([cnn](#))
- Africans in Guangzhou are on edge, after many are left homeless amid rising xenophobia as China fights a second wave of coronavirus ([cnn](#))
- Behind closed doors, Trump's coronavirus task force boosts industry and sows confusion ([nbc](#))

The hashtag #firefauci trended due to Donald Trump retweeting criticism of NIAID director Anthony Fauci ([politico](#)).

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

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

” *Extracted Quotes*

Emmanuel Macron (France, President):

"We must therefore continue our efforts and apply the rules. The more we respect the rules, the more lives we save. This is why strict containment must continue until Monday, May 11".

Sebastian Kurz (Austria, Chancellor):

"There will be no events in Austria until the end of June, and probably not even during the summer"; "We will take a decision at the end of April. Weddings are also included".

Donald Trump (USA, President):

"The president of the United States calls the shots. If we weren't here for the states, you'd have had a problem in this country like you've never seen before"; "When somebody is the president of the United States, the authority is total, and that's the way it's got to be. ... It's total. The governors know that".

Fact Check

Fact checked: fear mongering

- It is not true that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is a new virus, much more lethal than the novel coronavirus. The virus that causes EEE was isolated in 1933 and while the fatality rate of EEE is higher than that of COVID-19, the risk of infection is quite low ([maldita](#)).
- It is not true that the novel coronavirus has been “confirmed” to be airborne ([rappler](#)).

Fact checked: anti-immigrant sentiment

- Italian fact checkers debunked a story according to which immigrants occupied the house of an elderly couple who died of COVID-19 ([facta](#)).

Fact checked: treatment

- There is no definitive evidence that chloroquine cures COVID-19 ([washingtonpost](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- It is not true that 5G antennas were set on fire in the Italian town of La Spezia ([leadstories](#)).
- It is not true that the creator of the novel coronavirus was arrested ([rappler](#), [mythdetector](#)).