COVID-19 media surveillance

5 November 2020; 20:30 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 85 thousand articles per day (in 70 languages, as detected by EMM/MEDISYS).
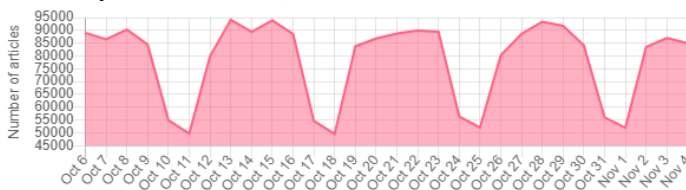

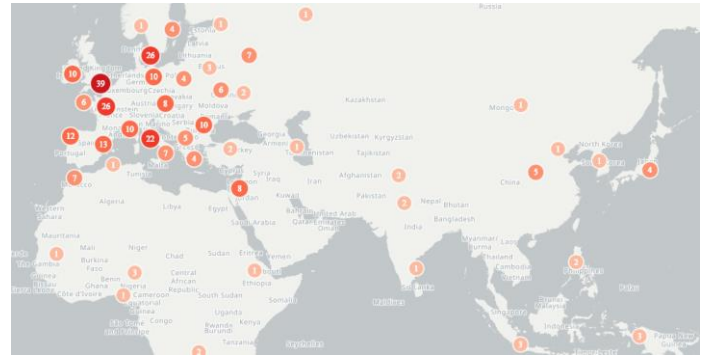*Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS)*

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

Headlines

- The U.S. shattered records with more than 100,000 new cases in a single day
- India's cases jump on New Delhi resurgence
- Brazil authorises resumption of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine trial
- Spain: Health Ministry maintains that more time must pass to assess whether the current restrictions, such as the nighttime curfew and perimetral lockdown, are working
- France: Paris bans night-time food and drink deliveries to tackle worsening Covid-19 crisis
- Germany reaches new record number of 19,900 cases
- Italy reported 34,505 new cases as new restrictions enter into force on Friday
- Denmark to kill all mink to stop mutated coronavirus spreading to humans as there have been 12 cases of mutations being transmitted to humans
- Belgium: strict coronavirus measures will have to remain in force in Belgium until there is a vaccine according to PM Alexander De Croo
- Luxembourg reported 803 new cases and 6 deaths
- Greece reported new record of 2,917 cases and 29 deaths on eve of lockdown
- Swedish PM self-isolates as nation passes grim threshold of 6,000 overall deaths
- Switzerland announced it was cutting the number of trains to Italy, Germany and France amid partial lockdowns
- UK: Test and trace records highest weekly total of cases in England
- Russia reports record number of new cases and deaths
- New Zealand reported two new cases in managed isolation
- South Korea's new cases rose by 125 as sporadic infections continued in the greater Seoul area
- China bars travellers from Belgium, the UK, India and the Philippines by temporarily suspending valid visas
- Japan: Tokyo added 269 new cases and reached the highest number of serious cases it has had in nearly two and a half months

Twitter

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

- "Australia has almost eliminated the coronavirus — by putting faith in science" (washingtonpost)

- "Using Pokémon to Detect Scientific Misinformation. Predatory journals are especially dangerous during the COVID-19 pandemic" (thescientist)

- "All older children and teachers in England must wear face masks at school" (sky)

- "Vaccine against the coronavirus in Argentina: only 4 out of 10 would agree to be among the first to receive it according to a survey carried out by the University of Belgrano" (clarin)

The most mentioned English sources were Washington Post, the New York Times, Sky News, the Guardian and the Independent.

Clarin, El País, El Diario, El Confidencial and Antena3, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

Fact Check

- Fact checkers debunk a video by the *World Federation of Physicians* claiming that the coronavirus is a seasonal virus that can be treated with steroids, hydroxychloroquine and zinc, and it does not, therefore, warrant for further restrictions. Fact checkers report that these claims are not supported by any evidence and go against the official statements of the ECDC (faktograf).
- Croatian fact checkers debunk claims that those who agree to take the COVID-19 vaccine will have their debts written off, while those who do not will be placed under house arrest or in isolation facilities (faktograf).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that some mouthwashes could help curb coronavirus, reporting that there is currently no scientific evidence demonstrating that these products can reduce person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 (healthfeedback).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the pandemic is a hoax and will end a day after the US presidential election (politifact).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the German Bundestag has planned the coronavirus pandemic since 2012 based on an old risk analysis titled "Pandemic by Virus: Modi-SARS". Fact checkers note that while the risk analysis is real, it does not mention the novel coronavirus (afpfaktencheck).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the Ministry of Health of Ecuador stated that COVID-19 is caused by a bacteria amplified by 5G electromagnetic radiation (maldita).

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