

COVID-19 media surveillance

29 June 2020; 14:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with 60 thousand articles per day on Sunday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).



Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS; missing data on 2-3 June)



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



Headlines

- China's [military approves vaccine for its own use; 500,000 residents in Anxin country near Beijing are put in lockdown as cases rise again](#)
- USA: [Some US states return to previous restrictions hoping to slow surges of cases](#)
- Brazil: [Protests target Bolsonaro after Brazil's worst coronavirus week with 259,105 new cases in seven days](#)
- Spain: [Asturias has become the first region in Spain to have gone 14 days without registering a new case](#)
- Germany's [infection rate stayed below the key threshold of 1.0 for a fifth day](#)
- Ireland enters [phase three of lockdown as of today with easing of restrictions](#)
- Italy reported [several new clusters including a postal distribution centre in Bologna](#)
- Belgium reported [86 new cases on Sunday](#)
- Portugal: ["Worst week in terms of cases" sees Portugal in desperate diplomatic battle over British tourists](#)
- Luxembourg [could face a new wave of infections according to minister of health](#)
- South Africa's [surge of virus cases expected to rise rapidly](#)
- India records [over 19,000 fresh cases in 24 hours with eight states including Maharashtra, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu accounting for 85.5 % of active cases](#)
- Pakistan's [case number surpassed the 200,000 mark yesterday as authorities imposed restrictions in major cities across the country](#)
- South Korea adopts [three-level social distancing as virus cases rise to over 60 infections](#)
- Japan: Tokyo reports [58 cases as number tops 50 for fourth straight day](#)



Twitter

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

- "43% of U.S. coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes" ([nytimes](#))
- "Behind the curve: How the world missed Covid-19's silent spread" ([nytimes](#))
- "If 95% of people wear masks, tens of thousands of lives could be saved, model shows" ([miamiherald](#))
- "The data is in: Fox News may have kept millions from taking the coronavirus threat seriously" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "With Trump leading the way, America's coronavirus failures exposed by record surge in new infections" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "Florida sets another one-day record with 9,585 new coronavirus cases" ([thehill](#))
- "Masks Could Help Stop Coronavirus. So Why Are They Still Controversial? Confusing government advice at the start of the pandemic and cultural misgivings may have limited acceptance" ([wsj](#))
- "Young people urged to take virus more seriously as pandemic worsens in U.S." ([washingtonpost](#))

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

Infobae, RT (Spanish Version), El Pais, El Tiempo and La Republica, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Anthony Fauci (USA, NIAID Director):

"There is a general anti-science, anti-authority, anti-vaccine feeling among some people in this country – an alarmingly large percentage of people, relatively speaking"; "We have a program right now that's going to be extensive in reaching out to the community"; "They may not like a government person in a suit like me telling them, even though I will tell them. They really need to see people that they can relate to in the community – as sports figures, community heroes, people that they look up to."

Fact Check

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the so-called “virus removal cards”, recently worn in public by South Sudan's president and some senior ministers, kill the coronavirus ([boomlive](#)).

Fact checked: downplaying COVID-19

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the WHO has declared that the coronavirus is losing potency, reporting that the WHO never made such a declaration ([vishvasnews](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID-19 is caused by a bacteria, it is related to 5G, that autopsies were banned, and Italy broke rules to perform them, reporting that China performed autopsies on COVID-19 victims before Italy had its first COVID-19 death ([fullfact](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that US President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act several months before the start of the pandemic, allegedly proving that the pandemic was planned ([fatabyano](#)).