

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 160 thousand articles per day on Tuesday (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: Donald Trump has announced a [60-day ban on immigrants](#) exempting temporary foreign workers; state of [Missouri sued China's leadership over coronavirus](#)
- Spain: [faulty batch of face masks prompts the isolation of more than a thousand healthcare staff](#); [serological survey will begin on Monday](#) to measure incidence of the virus in Spain
- Italy looks at [easing lockdown on 4 May after first significant fall in infections](#).
- France records [531 deaths in a day as hospital cases continue to fall](#)
- UK: extrapolation by Financial Times [estimates the coronavirus death toll in UK to be twice as high as the official figure](#) of 17,337 deaths; [Health Secretary denied that not joining EU ventilator scheme was 'political decision'](#)
- [Belgium will hire 2,000 investigators for contact tracing](#) as 40,596 confirmed cases were reported in total.
- Turkish President Erdogan announced a [lockdown in the country's largest cities starting from 23 to 26 April](#).
- Brazil [reported 43,368 cases and 2,761 deaths](#) in total
- The Indian Council of Medical Research has asked states to [pause the use of rapid testing kits over concerns that they are faulty](#).
- Singapore extended its [lockdown amid fast-growing second peak of infections](#)
- South Korea: plans for a ['Korean New Deal' stimulus package with additional 85 trillion won](#)
- Japan: [25 new deaths reported, highest tally for single day](#); outbreak onboard [cruise ship Costa Atlantica docked in Nagasaki](#) with 33 confirmed cases
- [China's National Health Commission reported 30 new confirmed cases, of which 23 were imported cases](#); Beijing city [shuts down gyms again as fears rise over a second wave of coronavirus](#)
- The World Food Programme of the United Nations [warns of 'famines of biblical proportions'](#) in more than 30 countries
- Economy: [oil prices remain under pressure after record plunge](#)



Twitter

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

- Deaths in care homes related to COVID-19 more than quadruple in a week ([sky](#))
- CDC's failed coronavirus tests were tainted with coronavirus, feds confirm ([arstechnica](#))
- Tests purchased to replace defective ones also do not detect coronavirus ([libertaddigital](#))
- A report places the Spanish management of the coronavirus as the worst in the world ([elconfidencial](#))
- CDC director warns second wave of coronavirus is likely to be even more devastating ([washingtonpost](#))
- NIH panel recommends against drug combination promoted by trump for COVID-19 ([npr](#))
- Senate passes \$484 billion coronavirus deal after weeks of deadlock ([politico](#))
- In front of White House, nurses read names of colleagues killed by coronavirus ([washingtonpost](#))

The hashtag [#islamophobia_in_india](#) has been trending. Tweets often refer to a New Delhi gathering of Muslim missionary movement Tablighi Jamaat ([millattimes](#)).

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

Libertad digital, el Confidencial, el Diario, El País and Infobae and Le Parisien and Le Monde were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Robert Redfield (USA, CDC Director):

"There's a possibility that the assault of the virus on our nation next winter will actually be even more difficult than the one we just went through"; "And when I've said this to others, they kind of put their head back, they don't understand what I mean"; "We're going to have the flu epidemic and the coronavirus epidemic at the same time".

David Beasley (World Food Programme, Executive Director):

"We are not talking about people going to bed hungry"; "We are talking about extreme conditions, emergency status – people literally marching to the brink of starvation. If we don't get food to people, people will die".

Fact Check

Fact checked: prevention

- Fact checkers debunk claims that drinking alcohol can prevent COVID-19 ([afp](#)).

Fact checked: government response

- North Macedonian fact checkers label an article accusing the government of having left its citizens at their own mercy during the pandemic misleading - they highlight how the allegations are not substantiated by facts, evidence or sources ([crithink](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk a video claiming to show people rioting and looting shops in England due to the coronavirus lockdown ([boomlive](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims that Bill Gates was detained on charges of having created SARS-CoV-2 ([factcheck](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Bill Gates refused to vaccinate his children ([factanews](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that an American scientist was arrested for selling SARS-CoV-2 to China ([aap](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that 5G technologies are being secretly installed in the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic ([faktograf](#)).