

COVID-19 media surveillance

18 June 2020; 16:00

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 100 thousand articles per day on Wednesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

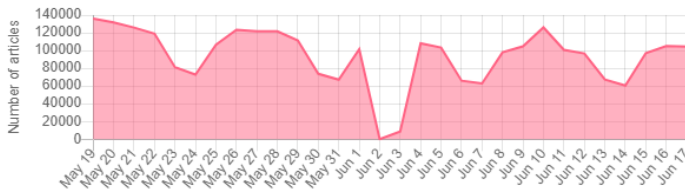


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS; missing data on 2-3 June)



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

- USA: [Coronavirus cases hit record highs across much of the US](#); cases [rise as Trump says virus is 'fading away'](#)
- Brazil has [more cases than the whole of Latin America together](#)
- UK [abandons contract-tracing app and switches to Apple-Google model](#); health experts [criticise UK's failure to track recovered Covid-19 cases](#)
- Spain's [economy fell 34% in the first two weeks of the coronavirus lockdown](#); Spain will carry out [PCR tests on all close contacts of Covid-19 cases](#)
- Germany: [7000 people quarantined in Göttingen after outbreak in meat-processing plant](#)
- Italy reports [329 new cases](#)
- Belgium [reports 89 new cases and 24 hospital admissions](#)
- Luxembourg confirms [10 new coronavirus cases in latest update with 40 active infections](#)
- Russia's [new cases rise at lowest in six weeks](#)
- Kazakhstan's national leader [Nursultan Nazarbayev and health minister test positive](#)
- Indonesia [announces record rise in infections](#)
- India reports its [biggest jump in count with over 12,000 fresh cases in a day](#)
- Iran: Months into virus, [biggest one-day case spike worries Iran](#)
- New Zealand [reports fresh cases as more quarantine breaches emerge](#)
- South Korea: new cases at [3-week high with greater Seoul being gripped by more cluster infections](#)
- Japan: new [cases surge from previous day to 41 in Tokyo](#)
- China: [Beijing's Covid-19 cluster may have begun a month earlier](#); [Norwegian salmon exports to China fell by more than a third last week](#)
- Science: [World Health Organization halts hydroxychloroquine study](#); the [steroid treatment for coronavirus is hailed as break-through](#)



Twitter

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

- "England's 'world beating' system to track the virus is anything but" ([nytimes](#))
- "'They're in denial': How Trump's White House is ignoring the pandemic" ([cnn](#))
- "Of course not": Fauci says he personally wouldn't attend Trump's Tulsa rally, citing coronavirus" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "US stockpile stuck with 63 million doses of hydroxychloroquine" ([cnn](#))
- "A group of 16 friends went out to a crowded Florida bar to celebrate a birthday have all tested positive for coronavirus" ([cnn](#))
- "Bolsonarista deputy who invaded hospital is suspected of having coronavirus" ([diariodocentrodomundo](#))
- "The Economist places Spain among the countries that reacted the worst to the coronavirus" ([cope](#))

The hashtags #beijing and #dexamethasone were trending due to the outbreak linked to a food market in Beijing and the positive results of dexamethasone in a recent UK study, respectively.

In Germany, the hashtag #tönnies was trending due to a cluster of cases linked to a meat processing plant operated by the Tönnies company.

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

El Diario, RT (Spanish Version), El Pais, and CNN (Spanish Version), and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.



Extracted Quotes

Michael Ryan (WHO, Executive Director):

"It is important to put this on the table: This virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away"; "HIV has not gone away — but we have come to terms with the virus".



Fact Check

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the WHO has closed the “corona file” and that all measures taken to counter the spread of the coronavirus will be suspended since it was discovered that asymptomatic carriers cannot infect others. While the first part of the claim is completely false, the second part seems to be based on a statement by a WHO epidemiologist who did say that asymptomatic carriers rarely spread the disease. However, WHO later retracted the statement and clarified that while 6-41% of infected people may not show symptoms, many of them may transmit the disease ([afpfactuel](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the coronavirus does not affect people with O positive blood type, reporting that while some research suggests that people with O positive blood type have a lower risk of infection than those with other blood types, it is incorrect to say that people with O positive blood type do not get COVID-19 ([vishvasnewsfactcheck](#)).

Fact checked: anti-vax narratives

- Following the annual meeting of the association of Russian doctors against compulsory vaccination, fact checkers debunked several claims about vaccines in general and a potential COVID-19 vaccine in particular, such as claims that a COVID-19 vaccine will be rolled out without any prior testing since it would take several decades to test the vaccine ([factcheck.kz](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Brazilian fact checkers debunk claims that the Governor of São Paulo signed a contract with a Chinese company to develop a vaccine against the new coronavirus in August 2019, reporting that the contract was signed on 10 June 2020 ([aosfatos](#)).