

# 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 Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

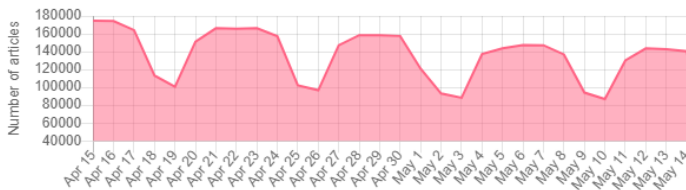


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



## Headlines

- USA: [CDC offers few guidelines for reopening safely as U.S. death toll surpasses 85,000](#)
- UK: [City of London has recorded just 24 new cases and has the lowest reproduction rate](#)
- Spain to [extend restrictions on international travelers until June 15](#)
- Italy set to allow [free movement within country from 3 June](#)
- France sees [spike in Covid-19 deaths but hospital numbers continue to fall](#)
- [Belgium aims to reopen its borders to tourists by 15 June; 56 new deaths and 67 hospital admissions reported](#)
- Luxembourg: [mass testing is postponed from 19 May](#)
- Russia: [fourth minister had coronavirus after cases pass 250,000](#)
- Brazil reaches [daily record of 13,944 new cases as Bolsonaro pressures CEOs](#)
- Singapore [reported 793 new cases with foreign workers most-affected](#)
- South Korea: [new cases linked to Seoul's nightlife district of Itaewon is now traced in over 10 cities all across the country with the total reaching 133 as of Thursday](#)
- Japan [widens travel entry ban to 100 countries and regions; parts of Japan emerge from state of emergency today, but restrictions stay in place in Tokyo](#)
- China marks [one month with no new coronavirus death](#); four new cases reported on Friday



## Twitter

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

- "Los Angeles to require everyone to wear face masks at all times while outdoors" ([justthenews](#))
- "'I wish I could do something for you,' my doctor said. Young, healthy people like me are getting very, very sick from the disease caused by the coronavirus." ([nytimes](#))
- "The coronavirus slayer! How Kerala's rock star health minister helped save it from Covid-19" ([theguardian](#))
- "WHO officials warn coronavirus isn't going anywhere soon" ([thehill](#))

The hashtag #sanofi was trending as Sanofi stated that vaccine will be available worldwide simultaneously ([reuters](#)).

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

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

## ” *Extracted Quotes*

### **Edouard Philippe (France, Prime Minister):**

"A vaccine against Covid-19 should be a public good for the world";  
"Equal access for all to vaccine is not negotiable".

### **Armin Laschet (Germany, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia):**

"Germany will only overcome the corona crisis if European freedom of movement for people, goods and services is fully restored".

## *Fact Check*

### **Fact checked: scare-mongering claims**

- Fact checkers debunk a photograph showing corpses lying in the street claiming to show coronavirus victims - the photograph actually shows the victims of a stampede that occurred in 2015 during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia ([afpfactual](#)).

### **Fact checked: transmission, prevention and treatment**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the US Surgeon General recommended the public not to wear masks, reporting that the US Surgeon General's comments from early 2020 were re-shared and went viral months after he changed his opinion about the benefit of wearing COVID-19 protective masks ([snopes](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk viral claims that chopping onions and placing them around the house or under the bed prevents the spread of the novel coronavirus and cure pneumonia ([afpfactual](#)) and that gargling with salt water prevents COVID-19 ([afpfactual](#)).

### **Fact checked: conspiracy theories**

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the Italian government is hiding the truth about COVID-19 by banning autopsies ([open](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that there is a link between research for a mandatory COVID-19 vaccine and the future implantation of a microchip allegedly created by billionaire Bill Gates to monitor the world population ([colombiacheck](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Bill Gates was arrested by the FBI for creating the novel coronavirus ([facta](#)).