

COVID-19 media surveillance

28 May 2020; 9:30

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is dominating the news, with over 120 thousand articles per day on Wednesday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

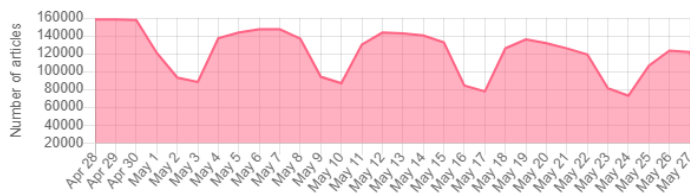


Figure 1 Media reports on coronavirus (source: EMM/MEDISYS)



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



Headlines

- US passes [100,000 coronavirus deaths as states relax lockdown measures](#)
- Brazil's [death toll rises above 25,000 with more than 410,000 cases](#)
- UK: [test and trace system started in England and Scotland](#) with 25,000 contact tracers
- Spain's [proposal for travel corridors could allow international tourists to visit before 1 July; lockdown rules on exercise and walks are lifted in Phase 2 areas](#)
- Italy reported [584 new cases on Wednesday](#)
- France: [prime minister Edouard Philippe to present phase 2 of 'déconfinement' today](#)
- Germany [reported 353 new cases and 62 deaths](#) with a [new cluster of cases in Regensburg; Amazon accused over infections in German warehouses](#)
- Belgium: [137 new cases and 36 new hospital admissions in Belgium](#)
- Luxembourg: [six pupils have tested positive since reopening the schools on 11 May](#)
- Russia's [death toll passed the 4,000 mark](#)
- Mexico recorded its [biggest single-day increase in both deaths and cases while the number of active cases is at its highest level yet](#)
- India sees [record rise of 6,500 new cases](#) with [more than 80% of the active cases in the five states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh](#)
- New Zealand: [only eight active cases reported](#)
- South Korea: [strict social distancing restored in Seoul area for two weeks as 79 new cases were confirmed](#)
- Japan reports [fewer deaths than last year despite coronavirus according to ministry data; cluster response team sent to city of Kitakyushu](#)
- China reports [two new coronavirus cases and 23 new asymptomatic cases](#)



Twitter

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

- "France bans use of hydroxychloroquine as coronavirus treatment. The country's public health agency advised against use outside of clinical trials." ([politico](#))
- "No 10 'had not noticed' daily testing figure has disappeared for several days in a row. Statistic vanishes from daily charts – after widespread criticism that numbers tested is tens of thousands below 'capacity' available" ([independent](#))
- "'Deep national disquiet': Emily Maitlis praised for summing up public mood over Dominic Cummings row in Newsnight opener" ([independent](#))
- "A Polynesian paradise sacrificed its economy to stay virus-free. The output of the Cook Islands will contract by some 60% because of bans on international visitors." ([bloomberg](#))
- "Mexico reports a record number in a day of new cases and deaths from COVID-19" ([reuters](#))

The hashtag #trumpdeathtoll100k trended as the US death toll reached 100,000.

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

El Diario, Infobae, El Pais, CNN and El Confidencial, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Angela Merkel (Germany, Chancellor):

"We are still living at the beginning of the pandemic".

Tedros Adhanom (WHO, Director-General):

"We reiterate our call to all countries not to impose restrictions that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade".

Karl Lauterbach (Germany, MP):

"Death threats to insults of all kinds, some of us have to put up with a lot. Therefore, everyone with a remaining bit of character should stop the online hate speech against virologists, epidemiologists or politicians. It animates people who are unpredictable. Think of our families".



Fact Check

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that Italian doctors performed autopsies of COVID-19 victims, disobeying the WHO, and found that a bacterium, treatable with antibiotics - and not a virus - caused their deaths ([factcheck](#), [fatabyvano](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that COVID-19 is caused by a bacterium and it can be cured with black seed oil ([faktograf](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that drinking warm water with salt kills SARS-CoV-2 ([tempecekfakta](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that drinking water with lemon and baking soda kills SARS-CoV-2 and that in Israel, where people have that drink every night, there have not been any coronavirus infections ([afpfactual](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Brazilian fact checkers debunk claims from the conspiracy video "Plandemic", including claims that vaccines have killed millions and claims that the novel coronavirus was created in a laboratory ([estadaoverifica](#)).