

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 100 thousand articles per day on Thursday (in 70 languages, as detected by [MEDISYS](#)).

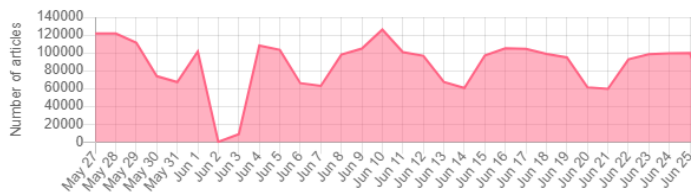


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS; missing data on 2-3 June)



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: As virus surges, [younger people account for 'disturbing' number of cases](#); the US sees [a record number of new cases in a single day with 36,291 new cases](#)
- Brazil has [reached 54,971 deaths and 1,228,100 cases](#)
- Spain [approves 'new normality' rules as cases rise](#)
- Germany: [Gütersloh reported only one case during mass-testing meant to identify the scope of the outbreak as residents are on lockdown until 30 June](#)
- Italy: [Army sent to virus 'red zone' in Campania region as tensions flare](#)
- France [plans 1.3 million tests to find 'hidden clusters'](#)
- Belgium averages [89 infections per day amid a decrease in the spread of the virus](#)
- Portugal [is set to tighten restrictions on several parts of Greater Lisbon due to a wave of infections](#)
- Austria: [40% of residents in ski resort town Ischgl have antibodies](#)
- Luxembourg: [11 new confirmed cases in Thursday update](#)
- India's [cases spike again to near half-million](#)
- South Korea reports [39 new cases amid a steady rise in cluster infections and imported cases](#)
- Japan: [Number of new cases in Tokyo rises to 54 on Thursday](#); Japan's [contact-tracing app has been downloaded more than 4 million times](#)
- China reports [further decline in cases](#) with 13 cases on Friday



Twitter

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

- "New research explores how conservative media misinformation may have intensified the severity of the pandemic. The three studies paint a picture of a media ecosystem that entertains conspiracy theories and discourages audiences from taking steps to protect themselves and others" ([washingtonpost](#))
- "Boris Johnson wants Britain to go to the pub – and forget about the 65,700 dead" ([guardian](#))
- "How the Virus won. Invisible outbreaks sprang up everywhere. The United States ignored the warning signs. We analyzed travel patterns, hidden infections and genetic data to show how the epidemic spun out of control." ([nytimes](#))
- "The coronavirus surge is real, and it's everywhere" ([axios](#))
- "CDC: Coronavirus may have infected 10 times more Americans than known. Nearly 25 million Americans may have contracted the coronavirus, a figure 10 times higher than the number of confirmed cases" ([thehill](#))
- "Trump entrenched in failed strategy as virus surges and polling drops" ([cnn](#))

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

El Mundo, RT (Spanish Version), La Nacion, Infobae and Clarin, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Joseph McCormick (USA, Professor of epidemiology at UT Health School of Public Health):

"What is clear is that the proportion of people who are younger appears to have dramatically changed"; "It's really quite disturbing."

Dorothee von Laer (Austria, Director of Institute of Virology at Innsbruck University):

"Even though at that rate herd immunity cannot be assumed, Ischgl's population should be protected [from the virus] to a large extent".

Fact Check

Fact checked: political aspect of the crisis

- American fact checkers report that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez did not tweet that businesses should be kept closed until after the 2020 presidential election, noting that this is another case of a faked screenshot ([snopes](#)).

Fact checked: anti-vax narratives

- Italian fact checkers debunk an image circulating on social media claiming to show a list of ingredients of the COVID-19 vaccine, including "acetone - toxic diluent", "beef serum", "monkey kidney cells" and "gelatin", among others, accompanied by the caption, "Read this before you take the COVID-19 vaccine" ([facta](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that Bill Gates, who has been funding harmful vaccination campaigns in developing countries, now plans to use the COVID-19 vaccine to surveil the population, reporting that the vaccines used in the initiatives funded by the Gates Foundation in Africa and Asia were approved and safe and noting that the claim that Gates wants to use COVID-19 vaccines to track the population is unsupported ([healthfeedback](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims that a photo of a coronavirus vaccine for dogs proves that both the coronavirus and a vaccine have existed for 20 years, reporting that the canine coronavirus is not the same as SARS-CoV-2 ([correctiv](#)).