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 100 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 clusters of media reports on Italy, France, Spain, Germany, the UK, Russia, Egypt, China, South Korea and Japan (source: EMM/MEDISYS)

Headlines

- USA: several southern U.S. states reported sharp increases in infections, with Alabama, South Carolina and Virginia all seeing new cases rise 35% or more over the last week; spike in transmission expected due to ongoing protests following the death of George Floyd
- Brazil sets another record with 28,936 additional cases and 1,262 deaths
- UK: ongoing discussion about infections in hospitals and care homes spilling into the community
- Spain: health ministry reports no daily coronavirus deaths for second consecutive day
- Italy records 55 new and 318 new cases on Tuesday
- France started phase 2 of easing of restrictions yesterday while more than 100 new deaths were reported
- Germany reported a spike of new cases following family parties in Göttingen leading to mass testing
- Belgium reported 98 new cases and 26 hospital admissions
- Luxembourg recorded only one new confirmed case with no additional deaths on Tuesday
- Russia: Coronavirus deaths surpass 5,000
- Mexico: deaths pass 10,000 as restrictions are eased
- India's reported cases exceed 200,000, highest in Asia
- New Zealand set to ease coronavirus restrictions after 11 days with no new reported cases
- South Korea unveiled a 35.3 trillion Won (26 billion Eur) extra budget plan to brace for post-coronavirus era
- Japan: Tokyo issues coronavirus alert after 34 new daily cases reported
- China: city of Wuhan tests 30 million people finding 300 asymptomatic cases

Twitter

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

- "Spanish health minister bans British holidaymakers 'until UK's coronavirus situation improves'" (msn)
- "No10 admits coronavirus alert level is still 4 - despite easing lockdown" (mirror)
- "AI firm that worked with Vote Leave given new coronavirus contract" (theguardian)
- "The Tokyo Metropolitan Government announced on the 2nd that it confirmed that 34 new people in Tokyo were infected with the new coronavirus" (nhk)
- "Officials in Colombia evicting poor families during coronavirus outbreak" (washingtonpost)

More hashtags such as #blacklivesmatter, #georgefloyd and #trumpmeltdown linked to the protests in the US are trending while the US Surgeon General warns of additional coronavirus outbreaks due to the mass gatherings (cnn).

The most mentioned English sources were the Guardian, the New York Times, Sky News, the Mirror and CNN.

ABC, Okdiario, CNN (Spanish Version), Infobae, El Diario and El Mundo, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

99 *Extracted Quotes*

Ryan Demmer (US, Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota):
"It is difficult to imagine that we will not see a spike in Covid-19 transmission due to the protests".

Neil Ferguson (UK, Professor of mathematical Biology at Imperial College):
"The infections in care homes and hospitals spill back into the community, more commonly through people who work in those institutions. If you can drive the infection rates low in those institutional settings, you drive the infection low in the community as a whole".

Fact Check

Fact checked: claims about public authorities
- Spanish fact checkers debunk a photo claiming to show several members of the government not abiding by social distancing measures, reporting that the photo is from before the coronavirus crisis (newtral).

Fact checked: health-related claims
- Fact checkers debunk a viral video claiming that COVID-19 can be cured with anti-inflammatory medications and anticoagulants (colombiacheck).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that cannabis consumption prevents coronavirus infections and treats COVID-19 (stopfake).

Fact checked: downplaying COVID-19
- Fact checkers debunk a photo showing a woman carrying a black bag, supposedly containing a corpse, with one hand, claiming to prove that "false deaths" were used to inflate COVID-19 numbers; the fact checkers report that the photo is from a protest against the mismanagement of the coronavirus crisis in the US, in which the bags were supposed to represent COVID-19 deaths (afpfactual).
- Fact checkers debunk a viral video in which it is claimed that Italy's COVID-19 figures are exaggerated, hospitals were never full and only 3 percent of those counted as COVID-19 deaths was actually due to COVID-19 (observador).

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