

COVID-19 media surveillance

17 June 2020; 14:00

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

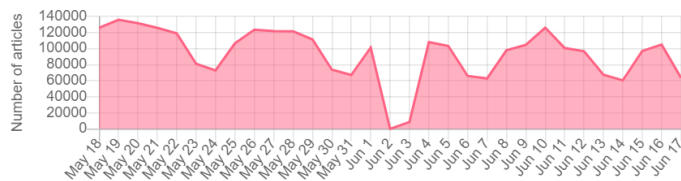


Figure 1 Media reports on Covid-19 (source: EMM/MEDISYS; missing data on 2-3 June)



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: [six US states \(Arizona, Florida, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas and Nevada\) report most ever new cases](#)
- Brazil reported a [record increase in cases and will 1 million cases soon](#)
- UK study [shows dexamethasone reduces deaths by about 30 percent in critical COVID patients](#)
- Spain: [15% of residents in Madrid care homes died during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- Italy reported [34 deaths and 210 new cases on Tuesday with most cases in the Lombardy region](#)
- Belgium reported [89 new cases and 24 hospital admissions](#)
- Luxembourg [confirms 3 new cases and no further deaths](#)
- Sweden: The [death toll in Sweden has passed 5,000, far higher than neighbouring Nordic countries.](#)
- Russia reported [lowest number of new cases since April 30](#)
- India reported the [grim record of 2,000 new deaths](#)
- Iran sees [biggest one-day spike in cases as more restrictions are lifted](#)
- New Zealand: [two imported cases in New Zealand represent 'unacceptable failure of the system' according to prime minister Ardern](#)
- South Korea: [clusters show signs of spilling over into other regions](#)
- Japan: [record-low 1,700 foreign visitors travelled to Japan in May amid pandemic; Japanese researchers confirm coronavirus testing in sewers as possible outbreak warning system](#)
- China: [reemergence of cases in Beijing over the weekend adds further uncertainty for businesses and consumers](#)



Twitter

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

- "Dexamethasone proves first life-saving drug" ([bbc](#))
- "Miami pauses reopening as Florida's new coronavirus cases rise" ([abcnews](#))
- "Partygoers have been packing Arizona bars. Now the state is a coronavirus hot spot" ([latimes](#))
- "Pence Misleadingly Blames Coronavirus Spikes on Rise in Testing" ([nytimes](#))

The hashtag #dexamethasone was trending due to the multitude of media reports on the positive effects of the steroid dexamethasone ([nature](#)).

The most mentioned English sources were the New York Times, CNN, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek and the Washington Post.

El Diario, CNN (Spanish version), Infobae, RT (Spanish Version), La Tercera and La Nacion, and Le Monde and Le Parisien were among the most mentioned Spanish and French sources, respectively.

” *Extracted Quotes*

Jacinda Ardern (New Zealand, Prime Minister):

"This case represents an unacceptable failure of the system. It should never have happened and it cannot be repeated".

Fact Check

Fact checked: health-related claims

- Fact checkers debunk claims that the WHO stated that asymptomatic carriers rarely spread the disease, reporting that while a WHO epidemiologist did say that, 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 ([thelogicalindianfactcheck](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that sunbathing can help to overcome COVID-19, reporting that the claim seems to be based on an unreliable, pseudo-scientific report claiming that sunlight triggers vitamin D, which, in turn, protects against the virus ([open](#)).
- Fact checkers debunk claims that the consumption of alkaline foods prevents coronavirus infections ([efeverifica](#)).

Fact checked: downplaying COVID-19

- Fact checkers debunk claims that a study conducted by the World Health Organisation has found that the coronavirus is losing potency and getting weaker, reporting that a top Italian doctor claimed that COVID-19 is losing potency while WHO refuted the claim, saying it is still a killer disease and there is no evidence to support the claim that it is getting weaker ([indiatodayfactcheck](#)).

Fact checked: conspiracy theories

- Fact checkers debunk claims that after a failed attempt with a “fictional” pandemic, the “deep state” is trying to introduce a totalitarian police state through anti-racism protests ([faktograf](#)).