

People no longer fear COVID-19, feel annoyed instead, study says

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SINGAPORE, July 15. /TASS/. People across the world stopped feeling fear regarding the coronavirus pandemic, and started feeling annoyance instead, researchers from the Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) concluded after analyzing over 20 million tweets between January and April.

"Almost half of all posts between late January and early March was dedicated to the fear of the new virus," the research, published Friday, says.

The largest outburst of negativity happened on March 12 - the day after the World Health Organization recognized the COVID-19 spread as a pandemic.

The analysts point out the presence of "xenophobic sentiments towards China and its citizens during the initial stages of the virus spread."

Besides, a wave of annoyance was noted in April amid introduction of restrictive measures in various countries.

Meanwhile, the keyword search algorithm, developed by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research of Singapore, also reveal a degree of optimism, connected to patriotic sentiments in various countries.

According to researchers, "preliminary data from April and June indicate that people predominantly feel annoyance and sometimes pessimism."

Over 13.3 million people contracted the coronavirus since the beginning of the outbreak, some 578,000 people died. According to the federal coronavirus prevention headquarters, 746,369 cases were registered in Russia; 523,249 people recovered, while 11,770 people died.