

G7 statement scrapped after U.S. insisted coronavirus be called "Wuhan virus"

Posted by Joan Russow
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Pompeo briefs reporters Wednesday. Photo: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

Foreign ministers of the G7 countries failed to agree to a joint statement following a video conference Wednesday in part because the Trump administration insisted the statement refer to COVID-19 as the "Wuhan virus," [Der Spiegel first reported](#) and [multiple](#) U.S. [outlets](#) have confirmed.

Why it matters: The world's two most powerful countries [are in a battle of narratives over the pandemic](#), with some in Beijing [spreading disinformation about its origins](#) and U.S. officials like Secretary of State Mike Pompeo increasingly blaming the Chinese government.

- The phrase "Wuhan virus" has not been adopted by other countries, and G7 members considered it needlessly antagonistic.

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- The countries ultimately agreed on a common set of principles and actions to confront the coronavirus, and each released their own statements after the video conference.