Overview of patenting activity related to COVID-19

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a remarkable research and innovation effort has gone into combatting the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease. This infographics provides observations on the patenting activity in the field of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics throughout the pandemic.

Patenting activity related to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics is nearly equally distributed between companies and universities/research organizations

Contribution to COVID-19-related vaccine datasets, by patent applicant profile

- Companies: 52%
- Universities and research organizations: 42%
- Independent inventors: 6%

Contribution to COVID-19-related therapeutic datasets, by patent applicant profile

- Companies: 49%
- Universities and research organizations: 38%
- Independent inventors: 12%

Patent applications related to COVID-19 in general, COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 therapeutics

Number of patent families first filed January 2020 through September 2022

- COVID-19 overall: 7,758
- COVID-19 therapeutics: 4,787
- COVID-19 vaccines: 1,298

Number of patent families first published January 2020 through September 2022

- COVID-19 overall: 8,050
- COVID-19 therapeutics: 4,968
- COVID-19 vaccines: 1,331

COVID-19-related patent application filing peaked in April 2020, followed by a corresponding peak in COVID-19-related publications in October 2021

Patent applications related to COVID-19, first filed and published January 2020 through September 2022, by patent filing and publication month

- Patent filings
- Patent publications