



Healthcare players upping their games amid Covid fears- ZNO, HCT, BIT

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The **Coronavirus** that causes **COVID-19** has become a global epidemic with now infecting people from at least 75 countries, as per the World Health Organization. The respiratory disease has killed over 3,200 people worldwide, with recent cases arising from Italy, that is being hit particularly hard, with over 3000 cases and 107 deaths. With the number of Coronavirus cases having risen in US, South Korea, Iran and Italy and most recently in India as well, tension is building up all over the world. The latest research suggests fecal transmission of Coronavirus explaining it's fast spread with live virus particles being found in stool specimens by researchers suggesting a fecal-oral route for Coronavirus.

Amidst growing concerns of infection, the given epidemic has encouraged the development of novel **coronavirus** vaccines throughout the biotech industry. Importantly, one of the crucial steps has been taken towards the development of vaccines and antiviral drugs against the virus with the 3-D mapping of the Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in atomic-scale using cryo-electron microscopy.

Companies like Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Moderna & Novavax are being engaged in coronavirus vaccine development. Australian companies have also joined the bandwagon- like Zoono Group, **Holista Colltech Limited**, Biotron Healthcare, to name a few. These companies are upping their game to contribute to the cause.

In this article, we are highlighting the above mentioned three **ASX listed health care players** engaged in fighting the deadly disease.

Zoono Group Limited (ASX: ZNO)

One of the few biotech companies that are seemingly gaining ground amidst COVID-19 fears is the anti-microbial manufacturer **Zoono Group Limited (ASX: ZNO)** with its shares rising more than 800% and 3300% in the last three and six

months, respectively. The company is involved in developing, manufacturing and distribution of long-lasting & environmentally friendly hand and surface sanitizers, proven effective against the coronavirus family.

Zoono's Z-71 Microbe Shield found > 99.99% effective against COVID-19

Zoono Group recently reported successful laboratory test results for its Z-71 Microbe Shield, which was found > 99.99% effective against COVID-19. While the deadly Coronavirus has been shown to persist on surfaces for up to nine days, company's products have been positively investigated against a range of pathogens for up to 30 days on surfaces and 24 hours on hands. The product, Z-71 Microbe Shield uses the same Zoono technology that was used in the hand sanitizer.

These successful, positive results further demonstrate Zoono technology's capability to be part of the solution to counteract and safeguard against COVID19 Virus transmission.

With its surface and hand sanitizer products, Zoono is extremely well-positioned to offer solutions to this rapidly spreading disease with the belief that these products could be effective in tackling coronavirus transmission.

Stock Information

On 05 March 2020, stock of ZNO settled the days' trade at \$2.290. With the **market capitalization** standing at around \$367.45 million, the company has nearly 163.31 million outstanding shares. The 52-week high and low price of the stock was noted at \$2.440 and \$0.063, respectively.

Holista Colltech Limited (ASX: HCT)

Rising COVID-19 fears have also benefited Perth headquartered, research-driven biotech company **Holista Colltech Limited (ASX: HCT)** with its shares rising approximately 116% in the last three months. COVID-19 outbreak has ignited demand for **Holista's** NatShield™ Sanitizer in Kuala Lumpur.

NatShield™ Sanitizer is an all-natural disinfectant spray that contains the powerful anti-microbial compound, Path-Away®.

The company also confirmed that its NatShield™ sanitizer has been sold out, since mid-January 2020, post the Coronavirus outbreak and announced the accelerated development of the nasal balm version of the NatShield™ Sanitiser.

Letter of Confirmation for Global rights of Path-Away®

Holista has distribution rights in various countries for the plant-based active ingredient, **Path-Away®** developed by Bluffton, South Carolina, U.S. headquartered Global Infections Control Consultants LLC (GICC LLC).

In a recent announcement dated 03 March 2020, Holista updated the market that a Letter of Confirmation (subject to a final agreement being signed), has been exchanged between GICC LCC and Holista that gives Holista distribution rights for NatShield™ sanitizer & later, the nasal sanitizer balm worldwide. The global distribution rights were initiated on 2 March 2020.

Path-Away® is a plant-based alcohol-free active ingredient that has demonstrated to eradicate all previously tested corona-type viruses.



Source: Company Report.

Update on orders of NatShield™ as at 29 February 2020

NatShield™ sanitizer is being bottled, marketed and distributed as 20-ml handheld sanitizer containing 3% Path-Away®, which is presently being shipped to Malaysia where the product is diluted according to GICC LLC protocol and bottled.

It was further informed that until January 2020, Malaysia was the main market for Path-Away®. The company holds the distribution agreements with seven main pharmacy franchises that include 2,700 drugstores & health shops.

Moreover, in an increase in orders from the 107,000 units announced on 8 February 2020, Holista received an order of 210,000 bottles of NatShield™, including of 20-ml, 30-ml and 60-ml sizes, as at 29 February 2020.

Sanitizers sales value amounts to around \$1.4 million based on total orders received as on 29th February 2020.

Stock Information

On 05 March 2020, stock of HCT settled the days' trade at \$0.165, down 5.714%. With the **market capitalization** standing at around \$45.22 million, there are 258.42 million outstanding shares. The 52-week high and low price of the stock was noted at \$0.235 and \$0.037, respectively.

Biotron Limited (ASX: BIT)

Focused on R&D as well as commercialization of treatments targeting significant viral diseases with unmet medical needs, ASX listed health care company Biotron Limited (**ASX: BIT**) also has gained amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Update regarding Coronavirus – Biotron to Investigate its Compounds against Coronavirus

In February 2020, Biotron updated the market that the company is in the process of investigating several promising compounds for the resistance against Coronavirus, including the new 2019-nCoV.

Biotron has a library of patented small molecule compounds with more than 30 compounds having excellent activities against various coronaviruses, comprising human coronaviruses (that triggers mild, cold-like signs) and SARS coronavirus (that was held responsible for the 2003 SARS epidemic).

It is important to note that these formulations can reduce coronavirus levels by 90 - 100% in infected cell cultures. Notably, there are numerous compounds with broad-spectrum action against several coronavirus strains.

With regards to the recent coronavirus epidemic, Biotron is now concentrating on investigating a selected set of these compounds against the new 2019-nCoV, under contract in specialist laboratories with access to this new virus. The company's main concern would be on testing compounds that exhibit broad-spectrum activity for different coronaviruses.

Stock Information

On 05 March 2020, stock of BIT settled the days' trade at \$0.130, up 4%. With the **market capitalization** standing at around \$87.74 million, the company has nearly 701.93 million outstanding shares. The 52-week high and low prices of the stock were noted at \$0.185 and \$0.050, respectively.