

How many stocks fighting COVID-19 have maintained their momentum?

5 hours ago | [Nick Sundich](#)

SHARE

While COVID-19 has been an overall negative for most companies, others have benefited.

Featuring heavily on our top 50 stocks for [February](#) and [March](#) were a small cap contingent of *potential* coronavirus fighters, including any company that mentioned 'hand sanitiser'.

It was a broad list of stocks including tele-health plays, hand sanitiser manufacturers, tech stocks winning government contracts and biotechs testing their drugs against the virus.

As of right now, a portfolio of all these stocks would have returned 137 per cent in the last 12 months and 43 per cent in the last 6.

But the overall numbers of winners and losers are almost dead level, and only 7 of the 25 stocks on our list have seen gains of over 100 per cent over the past year.

Code ▲	Name	Price (I) ◆	1Y Tot Ret ◆	6M Tot Ret ◆	Market Cap ◆
ADR	ADHERIUM LTD	0.022	-22	-32	\$15.0M
AEI	AERIS ENVIRONMENTAL LTD	0.685	118	153	\$163.7M
BIT	BIOTRON LTD	0.1	19	79	\$72.7M
BKL	BLACKMORES LTD	72.35	-19	-17	\$1.4B
DEM	DE.MEM LTD	0.16	-6	-33	\$28.1M
ESE	ESENSE-LAB LTD-CDI	0.019	0	67	\$10.2M
FOD	FOOD REVOLUTION GROUP LTD/TH	0.054	-37	-31	\$39.1M
GSS	GENETIC SIGNATURES LTD	2.33	116	140	\$335.1M
GTG	GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES LTD	0.006	-16	-45	\$45.1M
HCT	HOLISTA COLLTECH LTD	0.061	14	-9	\$21.8M
HTG	HARRIS TECHNOLOGY GROUP	0.025	102	280	\$6.9M

The Magnificent Seven

The biggest gainer is hand sanitiser maker Zoono (ASX:ZNO), up nearly 3000 per cent in a year.

Zoono and its peer Holista Colltech (ASX:HCT) both reported exponential demand for their hand sanitisers as COVID-19 broke out initially in Asia.

Holista, however, is only up 14 per cent on a yearly basis and has retreated in recent days after encountering supply chain issues.

Coming in at 2nd and 4th are two biotechs looking to fight the virus head on in Mesoblast (ASX:MSB) (+132%) and PharmAust (ASX:PAA) (+300%).

Mesoblast is the world's biggest listed stem-cell play, but it is testing its treatment on acute respiratory distress syndrome (Ards), the largest cause of death with COVID-19.

This is in addition to stem-cell clinical trials on chronic heart failure and lower back pain — both of which are expected this quarter.

PharmAust is trialling its cancer-fighting monepantel drug against COVID-19. For both diseases, it inhibits a signalling pathway into the cell cycle.

Another biotech on the list is Genetic Signatures (ASX:GSS) (+116%) which developed its own COVID-19 test that is approved in Australia and Europe.

Harris Technology (ASX:HT8) (+192%) was already an online shopping operator, but in April it took the step of launching protective hygiene products including face masks, alcohol wipes and hand sanitisers.

Rounding out the list were clean tech Aeris Environmental (ASX:AEI) (+118%) which has been providing hygiene products and communication automation software stock Whispir (ASX:WSP) (+125%) which has won several public sector contracts during the pandemic.