Ensuring Sufficient Manufacturing Capacity for COVID-19 Therapeutics

Our Goal

Accelerate and increase the availability of COVID-19 therapeutics (Tx) by addressing the industry’s most critical capacity bottlenecks and regulatory concerns.

Our Approach

We interviewed ~20 companies developing COVID-19 Tx to identify priority capacity bottlenecks and key policy/regulatory concerns. The companies represent a broad range of sizes and technologies, from small molecules to biologics, blood products and cell/gene therapies.

We are now developing a detailed view of the capacity landscape (needs & availability) to help companies find the capacities they need and to inform BIO’s engagement with policymakers, in order to advocate for solutions that can expand and accelerate manufacture of COVID-19 Tx.

Key Findings

While there are several potential bottlenecks in the end to end manufacturing and supply chain, we have identified three key steps that could stand in the way of large-scale COVID-19 Tx production and potentially require cross-industry solutions:

- Biologics Drug Substance Production
- Sterile Fill & Finish Capacity
- Lyophilization Capacity

On the policy side we also identified shared concerns in two key categories (see next page for details):

- Industry Regulation
- Trade Policy & Competition Regulation
Collaboration Between Industry & Regulators Is Critical for Success

Industry Regulation concerns include:

- Importance of rapid response from industry regulators on development questions
- Need to accelerate manufacturing technology transfer & facility registration processes to expand available capacity
- Need for international regulatory harmonization

Trade Policy & Competition Regulation concerns include:

- Prevention of potential export restrictions
- Unintended consequences of compulsory licensing
- Financial risk & inefficiencies of locking up speculative capacity

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