The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched a new tool that tracks COVID-19 related IP policy changes or other measures being implemented by WIPO member states in their response to the global pandemic. This is the latest in a series of measures taken by WIPO in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many national and regional IP offices are implementing measures to assist applicants and owners of IP rights, for example by providing extensions of time or grace periods for fee payments. In addition, a number of member states have or are considering special measures such as compulsory licenses, should potentially relevant products and technologies be identified. Many in the private sector are implementing voluntary measures to assist and a multitude of technology and projects are ongoing.

With an initial group of a dozen countries, the COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker will be updated regularly. It is freely accessible through a database interface.