

## **First WHO International Standard for assessing Marburg vaccines' responses now available**

Rwanda has diligently stepped-up efforts over the past month in response to an outbreak of Marburg virus, a deadly virus closely related to Ebola virus with epidemic potential. To date, 66 people have been infected with Marburg virus in the outbreak, and 15 have died.

No vaccines against Marburg virus are approved for use, but a candidate vaccine developed by the Sabin Vaccine Institute is currently being administered under a clinical trial protocol to healthcare workers and close contacts of cases in the Rwanda outbreak.

Importantly, an anti-Marburg virus antibody International Standard (IS) was created. The Standard was created from serum samples containing anti-Marburg virus antibodies shared by survivors of a previous Marburg outbreak in Uganda and collected through a collaboration between the @Uganda Virus Research Institute and @Integrum Scientific LLC, with support from CEPI. @The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), with support from @Battelle and @NIAID, received the convalescent serum, generated the IS, conducted a multi-center study, and submitted the report to the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS).

The IS was established by the @World Health Organization Expert Committee on Biological Standardization last month. Use of the IS will harmonize how different laboratories assess the strength and duration of immune responses generated by Marburg virus vaccine candidates.

The Standard (catalogue number 23/146) will shortly be available through the MHRA for request ([www.nibsc.org](http://www.nibsc.org), [standards@nibsc.org](mailto:standards@nibsc.org)) and will facilitate the comparison of antibody response elicited by vaccines against Marburg virus.

Data generated from using the Standard will help to inform current vaccine development and deployment strategies, while also supporting the evaluation of potential Marburg diagnostic tests.

More on the WHO website: [1st-is-for-marburg-virus\\_ab\\_who\\_2024.2482.pdf](#)

This effort was funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases under contract HHSN2722018000131 / 75N93022F00003.