

## **Marburg Virus Reaches Angolan Capital of Luanda**

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The Marburg virus that has killed 98 people in Angola's northern province of Uige, has reached the capital, according to MSF (Doctors without Borders). Its new victims in Luanda are said to be a teenage boy and an Italian doctor, both of whom were recently in Uige. At least three other cases of the disease have been diagnosed in Luanda. The prospect of this lethal pathogen spreading uncontrolled in a major urban area has mobilized the international community.

Ebola-like virus reaches Luanda

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MSF, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Centre for Disease Control have all dispatched teams to help contain the outbreak. The European Union has set up a fund for quarantine facilities to protect other patients and health care workers. Already two nurses have died of the disease, but a large majority of the virus' victims have been children.

The Angolan Ministry of Health has said that the spread of the virus from the largely rural Uige province to the capital has transformed a bad situation into a national emergency.

Marburg virus infections, a lethal relative of Ebola (both viruses are in the Filovirus family), are found in sub-Saharan Africa and occur infrequently. Both the Marburg and Ebola viruses are often characterized by the sudden onset of fever, malaise, muscle pain, headache and conjunctivitis. This is followed by sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, and both internal and external bleeding. Liver function may be abnormal and platelet function may be impaired. No specific treatment or vaccine exists for Marburg disease.