

## **Pandemic in the Making**

Posted by

Monday, 11 April 2005 13:45 - Last Updated Monday, 11 April 2005 13:45

---

### **Pandemic in the Making**

**PEJ News:** WHO Teams Attacked as Suspicions Grow in Angola Marburg Outbreak. - [{lex}](#)

<http://medweb.uni-muenster.de/institute/phys/vegphys/galerie/pics/ho/marburgvirus.jpg>

## **Pandemic in the Making?**

**C. L. Cook**

**pej.org**

**April 11th, 2005**

On March 23, the World Health Organization [released reports](#) officially naming the mysterious illness plaguing Angola. Marburg, the deadly virus first identified in the late sixties, was tagged as the culprit in the deaths of [o](#)

[ver 150 people](#)

since October. The

[viral haemorrhagic fever&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;](#)

cousin to the more famous ebola fever has now spread to seven of Angola's 18 provinces, and the capital, Luanda.

**The WHO's official diagnosis has prompted [international crisis response](#) .**

Until a month ago, cases were sporadic, mostly occurring in very young children, but last month the first of [17 health care workers](#) to become infected and die heightened concerns that this, the largest outbreak of its kind, could become a pandemic.

**The spread of Marburg□ is creating an atmosphere of fear and suspicion.□**

The WHO suspended mobile surveillance efforts in the wake of [stone-throwing attacks](#) . Rumors have implicated foreign medical aid missions with creating the crisis through [tainted child immunization programs](#)

. While locals say they are upset that friends and relations diagnosed and isolated in hospitals who died were quickly buried

[without next of kin notification, or&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;ceremony](#)

.