

**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**



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In reply please refer to: S2/180/3
Prière de rappeler la référence:

28 July 1977

PROGRESS REPORT ON REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

As of 28 July 1977, 17 laboratories in 10 countries are registered as retaining variola virus. Table 1 shows the number of countries per region, the number approached and the number from which information has been received. The table also shows the total number of laboratories included in the survey and the number identified as retaining variola virus.

During the period 9 February 1977 - 28 July 1977, 8 laboratories previously registered destroyed or transferred their variola stocks, bringing the total number of laboratories having destroyed their variola material to 57. Information was received from 8 more countries, leaving 5 countries in two regions which still have to reply to the original enquiry:

WPRO: China	AFRO: Cape Verde
Dem. Kampuchea	Comoros
	Seychelles

All these countries are under close follow-up.

Table 2 lists the laboratories with variola virus. Out of the 17 laboratories 6 are WHO Collaborating Centres.

The following comments can be made:

1. We are in contact with the laboratory in South Africa but due to the situation of this country within WHO, not much pressure can be employed to persuade them to destroy the virus.
2. During the World Health Assembly, contact was made with the delegates from Peru and Brazil and further action is awaited in the near future.
3. The situation in the USA is more or less stationary, since both the American Type Culture Collection and the Walter Reed Army Institute have raised rather strong objections to destroying their variola material.
4. During the discussions on the smallpox programme at the World Health Assembly, the U.K. representative stated that they will reduce the number of laboratories there to only 1 within 6-9 months' time.
5. It is expected that with the strong recommendations at the last World Health Assembly and the decision of the U.K., the West German laboratories will soon decide favourably on our request to destroy the virus.

Needless to say, the present situation is under close follow-up and we have good hopes that the number of laboratories will be further reduced in the near future.

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TABLE 1

PRESENT STATUS OF WHO SURVEY ON LABORATORIES
WITH STOCKS OF VARIOLA VIRUS

Region	No. of countries or areas		No. of countries or areas from which information has been received	Laboratories		
	Total	Information requested		Contacted by WHO and responded	Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain
AFRO	46	46	43	15	4	1
AMRO	34	34	34	278	13	5
EMRO	23	23	23	25	3	0
EURO	36	36	36	185	19	10
SEARO	11	11	11	57	13	0
WPRO	31	31	29	35	5	1
Total	181	181	176	595	57	17

LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS¹ (28 June 1977)

Number	Region/Country	Laboratory	Reason for retaining		
			Archival	Diagnosis	Current research
1	AFRO/South Africa	National Institute for Virology, Sandringham	X		
2	AMRO/Brazil	Instituto Adolfo Lutz, Serv.de Virol., Sao Paulo	X		
3	AMRO/Peru	Virus Instituto Salud Publica, Lima	X		
4*	AMRO/USA	Viral Exanthems Branch, CDC, Atlanta		X	X
5	AMRO/USA	American Type Culture Collection, New York	X		
6	AMRO/USA	Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington	X		
7*	EURO/France	Laboratoire National de la Santé publique, Paris			X
8	EURO/FR Germany	Landesimpfanstalt Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf	X		
9	EURO/FR Germany	Bayerische Landesimpfanstalt, Munich			X
10	EURO/FR Germany	Institut für Schiffs und Tropenkrankheiten, Virus abteilg., Hamburg			X
11*	EURO/Netherlands	Rijks Instituut voor de Volksgezondheid, Bilthoven		X	
12*	EURO/USSR	Laboratory of Smallpox Prophylaxis, Research Institute of Virus Preparations, Moscow		X	X
13*	EURO/United Kingdom	Virology Department, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London			X
14	EURO/United Kingdom	University of Birmingham, Dept. of Bacteriology, Medical School, Birmingham			X
15	EURO/United Kingdom	University of Liverpool, Dept. of Medical Microbiology, Liverpool	X		
16	EURO/United Kingdom	Microbiological Research Establishment, Virus Section, Porton Down, Salisbury	X		
17*	WPRO/Japan	Poxvirus Laboratory, Dept. of Enteroviruses, National Institute of Health, Tokyo			X

* WHO Collaborating Centre

¹ Countries not yet responding to query: Cape Verde, China, Comoros, Democratic Kampuchea, Seychelles

REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

<u>AFRO</u>	Requested	Received	Laboratories	
			Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain.
1. Angola	+	+		
2. Benin	+	+		
3. Botswana	+	+		
4. Burundi	+	+		
5. Cape Verde	+	-		
6. Central African Empire	+	+		
7. Chad	+	+		
8. Comoros	+	-		
9. Congo	+	+		
10. Ethiopia	+	+		
11. Gabon	+	+		
12. Gambia	+	+		
13. Ghana	+	+		
14. Guinea	+	+		
15. Guinea Bissau	+	+		
16. Ivory Coast	+	+		
17. Kenya	+	+	1	
18. Lesotho	+	+		
19. Liberia	+	+		
20. Madagascar	+	+		
21. Malawi	+	+		
22. Mali	+	+		
23. Mauritania	+	+		
24. Mauritius	+	+		
25. Mozambique	+	+		
26. Niger	+	+		
27. Nigeria	+	+	1	
28. Rwanda	+	+		
29. Sao Tome and Principe	+	+		
30. Senegal	+	+		
31. Sierra Leone	+	+		
32. South Africa	+	+		1
33. Swaziland	+	+		
34. Togo	+	+		
35. Uganda	+	+	1	
36. United Rep. of Cameroun	+	+		
37. United Rep. of Tanzania	+	+		
38. Upper Volta	+	+		
39. Zaire	+	+		
40. Zambia	+	+		
41. Namibia ¹	+	+		
42. Southern Rhodesia ¹	+	+	1	
43. Equatorial Guinea ²	+	+		
44. St Helena ²	+	+		
45. Reunion ²	+	+		
46. Seychelles ²	+	-		
TOTAL	46	43	4	1

¹ Associate member

² Non-member territorial areas

REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

<u>AMRO</u>	Requested	Received	Laboratories	
			Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain
1. Argentina	+	+	1	
2. Bahamas	+	+		
3. Barbados	+	+		
4. Bolivia	+	+		
5. Brazil	+	+	2	1
6. Canada	+	+	1	
7. Chile	+	+	1	
8. Colombia	+	+		
9. Costa Rica	+	+		
10. Cuba	+	+		
11. Dominican Republic	+	+		
12. Ecuador	+	+		
13. El Salvador	+	+		
14. Grenada	+	+		
15. Guatemala	+	+	1	
16. Guyana	+	+		
17. Haiti	+	+		
18. Honduras	+	+		
19. Jamaica	+	+		
20. Mexico	+	+		
21. Nicaragua	+	+		
22. Panama	+	+		
23. Paraguay	+	+		
24. Peru	+	+		1
25. Surinam	+	+		
26. Trinidad and Tobago	+	+		
27. USA	+	+	6	3
28. Uruguay	+	+	1	
29. Venezuela	+	+		
30. Belize ²	+	+		
31. Bermuda ²	+	+		
32. French Antilles and Guiana ²	+	+		
33. Netherlands Antilles ²	+	+		
34. West Indies ²	+	+		
TOTAL	34	34	13	5

² Non-member territorial areas

REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

EMRO	Requested	Received	Laboratories	
			Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain
1. Afghanistan	+	+		
2. Bahrain	+	+		
3. Cyprus	+	+		
4. Democratic Yemen	+	+		
5. Djibouti	+	+		
6. Egypt	+	+		
7. Iran	+	+	2	
8. Iraq	+	+		
9. Israel	+	+		
10. Jordan	+	+		
11. Kuwait	+	+		
12. Lebanon	+	+		
13. Libyan Arab Republic	+	+		
14. Oman	+	+		
15. Pakistan	+	+	1	
16. Qatar	+	+		
17. Saudi Arabia	+	+		
18. Somalia	+	+		
19. Sudan	+	+		
20. Syrian Arab Republic	+	+		
21. Tunisia	+	+		
22. United Arab Emirates	+	+		
23. Yemen	+	+		
TOTAL	23	23	3	0

REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

EURO	Requested	Received	Laboratories	
			Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain
1. Albania	+	+		
2. Algeria	+	+		
3. Austria	+	+		
4. Belgium	+	+	1	
5. Bulgaria	+	+		
6. Czechoslovakia	+	+		
7. Denmark	+	+	1	
8. Finland	+	+		
9. France	+	+		1
10. Germany, Dem. Rep.	+	+		
11. Germany, Fed. Rep.	+	+	2	3
12. Greece	+	+		
13. Hungary	+	+		
14. Iceland	+	+		
15. Ireland	+	+		
16. Italy	+	+		
17. Luxembourg	+	+		
18. Malta	+	+		
19. Monaco	+	+		
20. Morocco	+	+		
21. Netherlands	+	+	3	1
22. Norway	+	+		
23. Poland	+	+	1	
24. Portugal	+	+		
25. Romania	+	+		
26. Spain	+	+		
27. Sweden	+	+	2	
28. Switzerland	+	+	1	
29. Turkey	+	+		
30. USSR	+	+	1	1
31. United Kingdom	+	+	5	4
32. Yugoslavia	+	+	2	
33. Andorra ²	+	+		
34. Holy See ²	+	+		
35. Liechtenstein ²	+	+		
36. San Marino ²	+	+		
TOTAL	36	36	19	10

² Non-member territorial areas

REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

<u>SEARO</u>	Requested	Received	Laboratories	
			Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain
1. Bangladesh	+	+	1	
2. Burma	+	+		
3. Democr. People's Republic Korea	+	+		
4. India	+	+	8	
5. Indonesia	+	+	1	
6. Maldives	+	+		
7. Mongolia	+	+		
8. Nepal	+	+		
9. Sri Lanka	+	+	1	
10. Thailand	+	+	2	
11. Bhutan ²	+	+		
TOTAL	11	11	13	0

²Non-member territorial area

REGISTER OF LABORATORIES RETAINING VARIOLA VIRUS

<u>WPRO</u>	Requested	Received	Laboratories	
			Destroyed or transferred virus	Retain
1. Australia	+	+		
2. China	+	-		
3. Dem. Kampuchea	+	-		
4. Socialist Rep. Vietnam	+	+		
5. Fiji	+	+		
6. Japan	+	+	5	1
7. Lao People's Dem. Rep.	+	+		
8. Malaysia	+	+		
9. New Zealand	+	+		
10. Papua New Guinea	+	+		
11. Philippines	+	+		
12. Republic of Korea	+	+		
13. Singapore	+	+		
14. Tonga	+	+		
15. Western Samoa	+	+		
16. American Samoa (USA) ²	+	+		
17. Brunei (UK) ²	+	+		
18. Cook Islands (UK) ²	+	+		
19. French Polynesia ²	+	+		
20. Gilbert and Ellice (UK) ²	+	+		
21. Guam (USA) ²	+	+		
22. Hong Kong (UK) ²	+	+		
23. Macao (Portugal) ²	+	+		
24. Rep. of Nauru ²	+	+		
25. New Caledonia (France) ²	+	+		
26. New Hebrides (UK) ²	+	+		
27. New Hebrides (France) ²	+	+		
28. Niue and Tokelau Islands (N.Z.) ²	+	+		
29. Solomon Islands (UK) ²	+	+		
30. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	+	+		
31. Wallis and Futuna (France) ²	+	+		
TOTAL	31	29	5	1

²Non-member territorial areas