



## Q+A

# CEPI Call for Proposals: Sourcing of serum from recovered patients for the development of a Rift Valley Fever (RVF) international antibody standard

This Q+A was last updated on 30 July, 2020. The document will be updated on a regular basis and published on the CEPI website.

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## Do you have a specific antibody you're looking for, and what is the range at which you consider the titer to be "high?"

We are interested in a broad spectrum of specific antibodies to Rift Valley Fever virus as the standard will be an International Antibody Standard used as a reference in many types of assays and diagnostic tests. This is termed as "commutable".

If you are awarded the task of sourcing RVF sera for us, you are expected to complete the screening of recovered patients with certain diagnosis of RVF and use an ELISA (and possibly a neutralization assay) to screen candidates to select suitable donors. Through this you can define what a "high titer" is within that population. A number cannot currently be provided as this will vary with the assay (especially before standardisation; of which this is a particularly important element).

As a by-product of this screening process, you will identify individuals with low, medium and high. Such collections, including negative sera from individuals living the same area, will make a panel suitable for establishing and fine-tuning of assays for vaccine developers. If you have the capacity, you may wish to formulate a separate Work Package for creating such a serum panel.

## You refer to collecting serum from more than one site. Could you please clarify how you define a site? Does it have to include different countries? If so, are there specific countries you are hoping to target?

The term "Different Site" is meant for sampling sera with different virus strains/lineages. As such, we are interested in sera from different geographical sites – not necessarily different countries. Separate distinct outbreaks will be considered as sufficiently different. All should be supplemented by whole sequence data and lineage-definition of the strains identified as causing the outbreak.

CEPI has not specified a list of countries that we are hoping to target – rather, selection of sites is dependent on the current epidemiology, possible ongoing activity and/or the local capacity-building.

## Is there an editable PDF of the application form?

Please complete the application form in Word. The form can be downloaded from the Request for Proposals website by clicking on Annex 2: Request for Proposals Form; CEPI (RFP-ES-RVF-01).

## **Where should I send my completed application?**

Please send completed applications to: [rvfabstandard@cepi.net](mailto:rvfabstandard@cepi.net)