Reviewer's report

Title: Ebola haemorrhagic fever outbreak in Masindi District, Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 30 March 2011

Reviewer: Vincent Munster

Reviewer's report:

Dear editor,

I have reviewed the manuscript entitled "Ebola haemorrhagic fever outbreak in Masindi district, Uganda" by Borchert and co-authors. The manuscript offers a largely descriptive report of the outbreak of SEBOV in the Masindi district in Uganda. Although largely descriptive, the manuscript does have it merits and is an important contribution to the existing literature. However, the manuscript in its present form seems overly long and could use some streamlining.

Minor points:

Line 135, please incude references to the methodologies used throughout the outbreak to detect infected cases (either PCR or Elisa).

Line 138 “temporary CDC biosafety level 4 facility”, technically the field settings used in outbreaks do not qualify as level 4 facility, the in line 363used term field laboratory would be more appropriate.

Line 184, “oral dehydration”, should be rehydration.

Line 252 “epidemiological criteria” are these the same as used in table 1?

Line 332 “alert case definition”, refer to table 1.

Line 412 “International ….enforce” this statement should have a reference.

Line 630 “On the other …. False” this line need references to the exact PCR protocol used.

Figure 5, I do not feel that this figure adds much to the manuscript and could be deleted.

kind regards,

Vincent Munster

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests