**Supplementary figure 1. Course of primary HEV infection in experimentally infected rhesus macaques**. The macaques were inoculated with different levels of HEV genotype 1 Sar-55 strain and observed for 115 days after infection. Levels of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activities, antibodies, and HEV RNA were analyzed in daily stools and weekly sera. The blue line shows levels of HEV RNA in stool and the red line shows RNA levels in serum samples. Gray shade indicates ALT activities. RH617, RH619, RH624, RH636, and RH637 were inoculated with low levels of HEV strain sar-55 and no virus replication was detected. The course of primary infection in RH620 and RH625 was published before [18].

**Supplementary figure 2. Levels of IgM and IgG antibody responses during the primary HEV Sar-55 infection.** Brown lines indicate IgM anti-HEV antibody response. Green lines indicate IgG anti-HEV antibody responses. RH617, RH619, RH624, RH636, and RH637 were inoculated with low levels of HEV strain Sar-55 and no IgM anti-HEV antibody responses were detected. IgM and IgG anti-HEV antibody response were determined as signal cut-off ratio (SCR).