

Canadian Ebola vaccine sent to WHO for testing

October 20 2014

The first batch of an experimental Ebola vaccine developed by Canadian scientists was sent to Switzerland on Monday for testing by the World Health Organization, officials said.

Canada's Health Minister Rona Ambrose said the first of three shipments, comprising 800 vials of the [vaccine](#), had been sent from the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.

The vials were packed in dry ice at a temperature of minus 80 degrees Celsius (-112 degrees Fahrenheit) during shipping, officials said.

Trials of the vaccine on humans are expected to begin there at the end of the month or early in November, officials in Switzerland had said previously. Separate clinical trials of the vaccine began in the United States last week

There is no licensed treatment or vaccine against Ebola, which has killed more than 4,500 people in the outbreak centered in West Africa.

However, the UN health agency has identified two [experimental vaccines](#) that have shown promising results when tested on monkeys: the Canadian VSV-EBOV, licenced by US firm NewLink Genetics, and one made by British company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

The WHO said last month it hoped thousands of doses of the vaccines would be ready for use in badly hit African countries by early 2015.

Ambrose said meanwhile it was "obvious that more needs to be done to combat and contain" Ebola.

Gregory Taylor, chief public health officer, meanwhile said five rapid response teams of specialists had been placed on standby, ready to be deployed anywhere in Canada in the event of any Ebola cases in the country.

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