

Canada to begin Ebola vaccine trials

November 14 2014

Canada is starting trials of its experimental Ebola vaccine on a small group of people in the Atlantic port city of Halifax, Health Minister Rona Ambrose announced Friday.

In a statement, she said the vaccine will be tested on 40 people aged 18 to 65 "to assess its safety, determine the appropriate dosage and identify any possible side effects."

Researchers also hope to determine whether lower doses of the VSV-EBOV vaccine induce an [immune response](#) in individuals, she said.

The trials coincide with others already underway in the United States at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and National Institutes of Health.

Meanwhile 800 doses of the vaccine have been shipped to Switzerland for testing by the World Health Organization (WHO).

There is no licenced treatment or vaccine against Ebola, which has killed more than 5,100 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.

The Canadian trial will be led by the Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN).

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Citation: Canada to begin Ebola vaccine trials (2014, November 14) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-11-canada-ebola-vaccine-trials.html>

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