

Congo approves 4 experimental Ebola treatments in outbreak

August 22 2018, by Carley Petesch

Congo has approved the use of four more experimental treatments in the Ebola virus outbreak in its northeast, as health officials try to contain the spread amid the threat from armed groups in the region.

The treatments ZMapp, Remdesivir, Favipiravir and Regn3450 - 3471 - 3479 can now be used on those suffering from Ebola, the [health ministry](#) said Wednesday. On Tuesday, [health officials](#) administered Remdesivir, which is produced by Gilead Sciences, to a patient in Beni, the ministry said.

Health officials began using the mAb114 treatment on Aug. 11 on 10 patients and the ministry said they were doing well.

Congo's tenth Ebola outbreak was declared in Mangina in North Kivu province on Aug. 1. So far there are 75 confirmed Ebola cases and 27 probable ones. Of the 59 deaths, 32 have been confirmed as Ebola, according to the health ministry.

More than 1,600 people have been vaccinated since Aug. 8 in Mabalako and Beni in North Kivu province and in Mandima in Ituri province, the ministry said.

Insecurity in the region, especially in what the World Health Organization calls "red zones" where several armed groups stage attacks, is hampering efforts to treat everyone.

North Kivu is densely populated with more than 1 million displaced people. Health officials say the local population near the heavily traveled border with Uganda is not familiar with the disease, making outreach important.

Ebola is spread via contact with bodily fluids of those infected, including the dead, and can be fatal in up to 90 percent of cases, depending on the strain.

© 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Congo approves 4 experimental Ebola treatments in outbreak (2018, August 22)
retrieved 6 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-08-congo-experimental-ebola-treatments-outbreak.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.