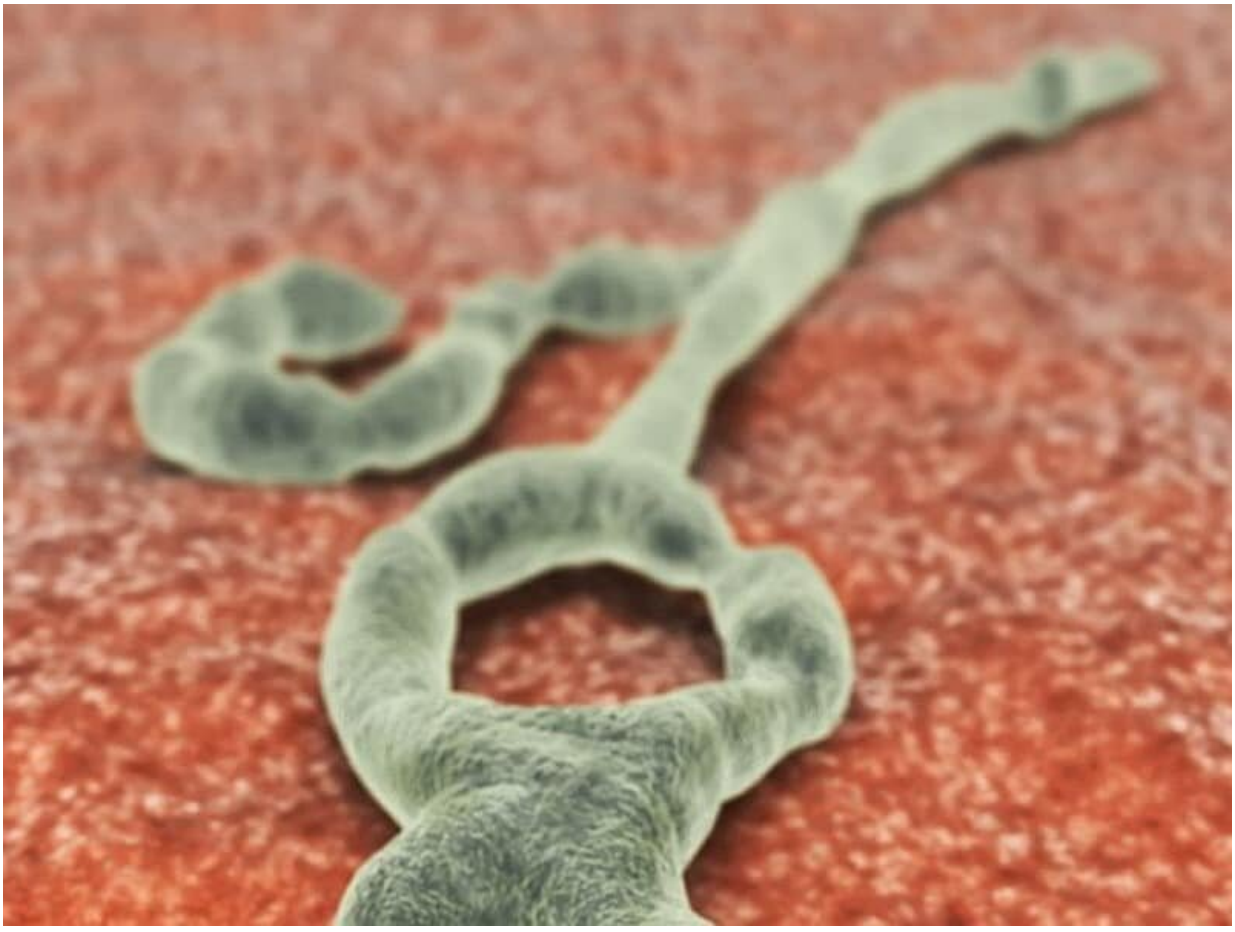
FDA gives first Ebola vaccine for adults the green light

December 21 2019



(HealthDay)—The first Ebola vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and

Drug Administration is a single-dose injection called Ervebo. The vaccine from Merck & Co. is approved to protect against the *Zaire ebolavirus* in people ages 18 years and older.

In the United States, Ebola infections are rare. Confirmed cases have involved people in other countries who became infected and then traveled to the United States or health care workers who were infected while treating Ebola patients, according to the FDA.

"While the risk of Ebola virus disease in the U.S. remains low, the U.S. government remains deeply committed to fighting devastating Ebola outbreaks in Africa, including the current outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," Anna Abram, the FDA's deputy commissioner for policy, legislation, and international affairs, said in a statement. "Today's approval is an important step in our continuing efforts to fight Ebola in close coordination with our partners across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as our international partners, such as the World Health Organization."

The world's second-largest Ebola outbreak is ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The largest outbreak occurred from 2014 to 2016 in the West African nations of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. More than 28,000 people were infected and more than 11,000 died. The FDA said Ervebo's approval is supported by a study done in Guinea during that outbreak, as well as studies in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Canada, Spain, and the United States. Ervebo was shown to be highly effective in preventing infection in people exposed to the virus.

More information: More Information