

Johnson & Johnson starts Ebola vaccine trial in Sierra Leone

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subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceutical Cos., will evaluate safety and immune response within Sierra Leone's general population.

The company said Friday that the first volunteers have received the initial dose.

Johnson & Johnson, based in New Brunswick, New Jersey, said that there are separate studies being conducted in the U.S., Europe and Africa as part of the accelerated development plan to prevent Ebola outbreaks.

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In this Aug. 12, 2015 photo, people walk past a billboard warning residents to stop the stigmatization of Ebola survivors, in Kenema, eastern Sierra Leone. Johnson & Johnson has begun clinical trials for an Ebola vaccine in Sierra Leone. The vaccine regimen is part of a new study being conducted in Sierra Leone's Kambia district, where some of the country's most recent Ebola cases have been reported. The company said Friday, Oct. 9, that the first volunteers have received the initial dose. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

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More than 11,000 people have died from the Ebola virus since the latest outbreak emerged in late 2013, nearly all of them in West Africa in and around Sierra Leone.

There is currently no licensed vaccine, treatment or cure for Ebola.

The Johnson & Johnson study, in development at

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