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Zuellig Pharma, NICVB, NIHE team up for accessibility of vaccines

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Zuellig Pharma, NICVB and NIHE announce project to expand access to vaccines in Vietnam through the use of innovative eZCooler technology



The National Institute of Vaccines and Medical Biologicals (NICVB), the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) and Zuellig Pharma have officially announced a project to expand access to vaccines in Vietnam through the use of eZCooler.

eZCooler is an innovative packaging technology that ensures the integrity of temperature sensitive products to the last mile of transportation. The US$600,000 project was launched during a kick-off meeting on 17 April 2019under the chairmanship of Dr. Doan Huu Thien, Director at NICVB.

Under the agreement, Zuellig Pharma will contribute hundreds of the innovative eZCooler, a temperature-controlled packaging solution to maintain product quality during transportation, therefore expanding access to vaccines in the country, particularly in remote areas. Zuellig Pharma will also cooperate with NICVB and NIHE to provide training to employees of the Medical Prevention Departments in 6 provinces on international standards and Good Storage Practices for cold chain supply management and usage of eZCooler.

The project aims to support the Vietnam Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), initiated by the MOH in 1981 with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The nation's public health program has since benefitted millions of women and children. Ensuring the highest standards of cold chain for vaccines will further contribute to the success of the EPI.

According to the EPI plan, the MOH has goals to improve the proportion of vaccination in areas that are at high risk of outbreaks, and in areas which are geographically difficult to reach, such as remote, mountainous or island areas. In view of this, Zuellig Pharma will contribute eZCooler with 3 capacities (8 litre, 12 litre and 96 litre) in 6 northern provinces including Hai Duong, Bac Ninh, Quang Ninh, Ha Giang, Son La and Yen Bai.