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| **VN *secures* 30 million doses of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine, in talks to manufacture Russia’s Sputnik V**  HANOI – Vietnam will be supplied with 30 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine within this year, a Vietnamese health official confirmed on Monday.  With a double-dose **regime** given about a month apart, the delivery from the UK-based university and pharmaceutical firm will be used to **inoculate** some 15 million people in the country.  Deputy Minister of Health Cuong said at a Government press briefing in Hanoi that the delivery of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, which is reportedly more affordable and doesn’t require super-cold storage conditions, will be done in phases through all four quarters of 2021.  The health ministry is in negotiation for the procurement of the four most notable COVID-19 vaccines, adding that various details regarding the deals with the four vaccine maker cannot be made public due to non-disclosure agreements that they required.  The US-based Pfizer has also tentatively agreed to a fourth-quarter delivery, Cuong stated.  Meanwhile, the Russian maker of the Sputnik V vaccine, is asking to manufacture the vaccine in Vietnam under a technology transfer agreement with a company under the management of the Vietnamese health ministry.  The price of the vaccines **does not differ significantly**, Cuong stated, noting that the requirements of the vaccines’ storage and delivery and rollout, as well as payment issues, matter a great deal and need coordination from different ministries and agencies and even instructions from the Politburo given the unprecedented nature of this undertaking.  The other thing to consider is that these vacciens have varying levels of effectiveness in clinical trials, some reaching 65 percent at the lowest while another could be as 94.5 percent, Cuong said.  “We are doing our best so that Vietnamese people could get access to COVID-19 vaccines,” he added.  In addition to the commercial route, Vietnam is also **eligible** for support from the WHO-led COVID-19 vaccine Global Access Facility which aims to provide equitable access to vaccine.  Cuong said **the initiative promised** inoculation for 16 percent of Vietnamese population at the cheapest cost possible, but at the moment, the countries that are making COVID-19 vaccines are still struggling to fulfil the huge demand globally.  Dung, Chairman of the Government Office, emphasised that even with COVID-19 vaccine, efforts to prevent and control the disease would still need to be strictly **observed**.  Vietnam is also pursuing homegrown vaccines, with one called Nano Covax already in first-phase human trial since December, and another set for human trials in late January.  The full data for assessment will be available at the end 2021 as per their projected timeline. | ***Secures:*** *to obtain.*  **Regime:** chế độ.  **Inoculate:** to implant in a person or animal.  **does not differ significantly:** không khác biệt đáng kể.  **Eligible:** đủ điều kiện.  **the initiative promised:** sáng kiến này hứa hẹn.  **Observed:** to see, watch. |