

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

July 22, 2005

Threat Level Change Targeted to Mass Transit Sector

- In light of the July 7 and 21, 2005 terrorist attacks in London, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) threat level remains at Code Orange – or High – for only the mass transit portion of the transportation sector. This includes regional and inter-city passenger rail, subways and metropolitan bus systems. DHS is asking for increased vigilance in other transportation systems and has indicated that the United States has no specific, credible information suggesting an imminent attack in the United States. More information is available on the DHS website at: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

DOT Launches Website to Assist Persons with Disabilities for Emergency Preparedness

- The U.S. Department of Transportation has launched a new web site containing information to help ensure safe and secure transportation for persons with disabilities in the event of a disaster or emergency. The new site includes advice on emergency preparedness, transportation accessibility and evacuation methods for certain modes of transportation, such as rail and transit systems. The site also provides information for transportation providers on how to respond to the unique needs of people with disabilities during an emergency. The web site address for the new site is <http://www.dotcr.ost.dot.gov/asp/emergencyprep.asp>

Registration for the International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management

- Register now for the Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management to be held September 12-13, 2005 at the Omni New Haven Hotel, 155 Temple St., New Haven, CT. A pre-conference workshop, *Health Disaster Management Guidelines for Evaluation and Research*, and a post-conference National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) course will also be offered for an additional fee. Online registration and forms can be accessed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natconf.html>

Southern Tier Hospital Emergency & Terrorism Preparedness Committee August Meeting Cancelled

- The Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee meeting scheduled for August 11, 2005 has been cancelled.

Special Meeting of Southern Tier Emergency & Terrorism Preparedness Committee Scheduled for September

- The Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee meeting originally scheduled for September 8 has been rescheduled for September 15, 2005, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at CHA in Wallingford to give committee members an opportunity to meet with Dr. Marvin Birnbaum, President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM). Dr. Birnbaum, a world renowned expert in disaster medicine will discuss the nature of disasters and the need for a standardized vocabulary and framework for disaster evaluation and research. Such standardization is essential to ensure that lessons can be learned from disasters and applied to improved response in the future. We hope you will all be able to join us for an exciting and educational presentation.

Influenza Vaccine Survey

- The Department of Public Health is in the process of planning for the up coming influenza vaccine season. As part of the process, they are conducting a survey of acute care hospitals to determine anticipated influenza vaccine supplies. Acute care hospital pharmacy directors should take the time to complete the attached survey and fax or email it to Mary Duley, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator (860) 509-7987 (fax) or mary.duley@po.state.ct.us.

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CDC Recommendations Call on Healthcare Facilities to Increase Flu Vaccination

- Updated influenza vaccine recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Panel on Infection Control strongly urge annual vaccination for all healthcare workers, including employees of long-term care and assisted living facilities. The updated recommendations also call on healthcare facilities to adopt approaches to increase the vaccination rate among healthcare workers, such as offering free, onsite vaccination. In the event of a vaccine supply shortage, healthcare workers who are younger than age 50 and in good health may receive the live, attenuated vaccine (LAIV) but should then refrain from contact with severely immunosuppressed patients for seven days. CDC's recommendations are published in the July 13, 2005, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr54e713a1.htm>. The October 2005 issue of Healthcare Hazard Management Monitor will discuss ways to increase flu vaccination among healthcare workers.

CDC Centers for Public Health Preparedness All-Hands Meeting

- Scott Selig attended the CDC Centers for Public Health Preparedness All Hands Meeting held in Boston July 11 -12, 2005. The following Centers for Public Health Preparedness strategic priorities were examined at the meeting: 1) collaborating with health care agencies across the nation to meet preparedness education and learning needs, 2) maximizing outreach of existing preparedness materials and 3) enhancing the base for effective preparedness education. For further information please contact Scott Selig at 203-688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org

Smallpox Vaccination Clinic to be held in August

- A smallpox vaccination clinic will be held on Monday, August 15, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the University of Connecticut Occupational/Environmental Health Clinic in Farmington. All volunteer or professional staff recruited for participation in smallpox vaccination clinics are eligible to be vaccinated including vaccinators, administrators and support staff. As stated in the 2004-2005 Public Health Preparedness Contracts, local health departments and acute care hospitals are eligible for reimbursement for recruitment, prescreening or performing post-vaccination site monitoring on smallpox response team members. All those vaccinated are covered by federal compensation law should an adverse event occur related to receiving the smallpox vaccination. To make an appointment please call the UCONN Occupational/Environmental Health Call Center at (860) 679-1692. Questions regarding the smallpox vaccination program may be directed to Monica Rak, RN, BT Public Health Intervention Program Nurse Consultant at (860) 509-7995.

Mark I Kit Update

- The State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), along with the Connecticut State Legislature, recently approved the use of the Mark I Nerve Agent Antidote kits by first responders. The Centers of Excellence (CoE) at Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford Hospital have been tasked with providing Train-the-Trainer programs to instructors from participating towns. YNHHS CoE has conducted five Train-the-Trainer programs with four more scheduled at locations throughout the southern part of Connecticut. Once a community has completed the required training of their first responders and implemented a method of managing storage and quality control for the kits, the State will distribute Mark I kits to the community's point-of-contact. For additional information regarding the Mark I program, contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.

Emergency Credentialing Program

- On July 8th, Jim Hite, Doreen Winkel and the ECP coordinating team at Middlesex Hospital mailed nearly 700 ECP recruitment brochures to Middlesex Hospital professional staff. In his letter that accompanied the brochure, Jim underscored the importance of the ECP program and encouraged Middlesex Hospital professional staff to volunteer. A copy of the letter is attached to this briefing should other hospitals be interested in implementing a similar approach. Statewide, 3,444 professionals have volunteered. This number is nearly 35% of our goal of 10,000 volunteers who will represent all disciplines and all hospitals across the state. Professionals interested in volunteering can access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html>. Each hospital that has agreed to participate in the Emergency Credentialing Program should forward the name of their hospital contact to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org
- Representatives from Connecticut have been actively participating in discussions at the national level related to an Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, ESAR-VHP. Recognized as an innovative, practical and scalable program on a national level, the Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program model will be adopted by Massachusetts and other New England States. Hospital preparedness coordinators throughout New England will collaborate with Mary Duley, RN, DPH as their programs are designed and developed. Other states around the country have also expressed interest in adapting the Connecticut program for use in their jurisdictions.

Training/Education

- Twenty eight thousand two hundred and eighty two (28,282) personnel representing healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM101 or EM 102 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.

**Mandatory Connecticut Pre-Event
Vaccination System Training**

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has required all acute care hospitals to maintain a minimum of two staff persons who are trained to use and access the CT-PVS database by August 30, 2005. Courses will be scheduled throughout August and September. Hospitals that have registered two individuals for training, whether that training has been completed by August 30 or not, will be considered to have met this contractual obligation. Individuals should enroll through <http://ct.train.org> as soon as possible. For questions, please contact Rory Angulo, MD, MBA, at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7691 or Carol Luddy, RN at the YNHHS CoE (203) 688-5544.

Laboratory Training

- All microbiology managers are encouraged to have members of their staff participate in training that is being offered by the Bioterrorism unit of the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory. Registrations are still being taken for the mini wet lab workshops at the State Laboratory in Hartford. These workshops continue to be offered throughout July and August on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and will enable attendees to see the capabilities of the State laboratory and get invaluable hands-on experience with a few select agents. For details and registration information please call Diane Barden, the Bioresponse Coordinator at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory at 860-509-8615 or Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor at 203-688-2594.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MTG	8/11/05		CANCELLED
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MTG	9/15/05	8:30 A.M.	CHA

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
IMMUNIZATION UPDATE SATELLITE BROADCAST AND WEBCAST	7/28/05	9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. & 12:00 NOON – 2:30 P.M.	TO REGISTER TO ATTEND THE BROADCAST AT A SPECIFIC LOCATION, OR TO SEARCH FOR AVAILABLE LOCATIONS, VISIT CDC/ATSDR TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION ONLINE AT WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTNONLINE
EMS OPERATIONS AND PLANNING FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	11/1/2005 – 11/3/2005	8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.	CONTACT MICHELLE SAN SOUCI, TRAINING OFFICER 401-462-7122 MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY.MIL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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RICHARD KLEINDIENST, SR.	MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS COORDINATOR	(203) 688-3912	RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG
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Questions, comments or suggestions should be
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