

## Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

*Emergency Preparedness Briefing*1 Church Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · [OEPWEB@ynhh.org](mailto:OEPWEB@ynhh.org)**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

July 29, 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/>.

## Influenza Vaccine Survey Reminder

- The Department of Public Health is in the process of planning for the upcoming influenza vaccine season. As part of the process, they are conducting a survey of acute care hospitals to determine anticipated influenza vaccine supplies. Please verify that your pharmacy director has completed the attached survey and returned it to Mary Duley, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator (860) 509-7987 (fax) or [mary.duley@po.state.ct.us](mailto:mary.duley@po.state.ct.us)

## Register Now 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 &amp; Terrorism Preparedness Committee August Meeting Cancelled

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

## Governor Rell Announces \$8.5 Million to Buy Mobile-Modular Hospital

- Governor M. Jodi Rell announced on July 25<sup>th</sup> that \$8.65 million in funding to purchase, equip and accommodate a 100-bed mobile hospital is expected to be approved when the State Bond Commission meets today (July 29, 2005). In addition to providing much needed bed surge capacity, this facility will serve as a national model and training facility. An additional \$1.35 million of bond funding will be used to finance physical plant modifications at Connecticut's acute care hospitals with HEPA filtration systems to enable the isolation of patients in the case of a smallpox event or other infectious disease incident. OEP is working closely with the State Department of Public Health on both initiatives. For further information please contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496, [james.paturas@ynhh.org](mailto:james.paturas@ynhh.org) or Mukesh Roy at (203) 688-2563, [mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:mukesh.roy@ynhh.org).

## Special Meeting of Southern Tier Emergency &amp; 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.

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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.

### Laboratory Training

- The State of Connecticut Public Health Lab continues to offer wet lab workshops at the State Laboratory in Hartford. Laboratory professionals who have already attended the training report that it is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with select agents in a BSL-3 laboratory, ask questions and discuss laboratory emergency response initiatives with members of the Bioresponse Action Team. Workshops will continue to be offered through the month of August on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For details and registration information contact 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.

### Smallpox Vaccination Clinic to be held August 15

- 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](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

### Emergency Credentialing Program

- Over 3,440 professionals licensed by the State and representing all disciplines have been recruited for the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP). Potential volunteers can now 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 ECP should provide the name of a contact person who will be asked to support the program within their institution. Hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to support the minimal resources needed at their institution for program recruitment and maintenance. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated Emergency Credentialing Program contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).
- Information on the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program is now available on the Department of Public Health web site <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/communications/ECP.htm>.

### 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.
- EM 120, an on-line PPE/decontamination course aligned with OSHA-defined competencies for first responder awareness level, is currently undergoing review by subject matter experts. EM 120 will serve as the first hour of the 8 hour operations level course required by OSHA for all individuals directly involved with decontamination. A 3 hour on-line decontamination operations level course to be delivered in concert with a 4 hour instructor-led practicum is under development for release next year. Questions regarding the course may be directed to Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577, [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

**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.

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to:  
[Center@ynhh.org](mailto:Center@ynhh.org)

**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>
EMS OPERATIONS AND PLANNING FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION	11/1/2005 –	8:00 A.M. TO	CONTACT MICHELLE SAN SOUCI, TRAINING OFFICER 401-462-7122
RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	11/3/2005	5:00 P.M.	<a href="mailto:MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY.MIL">MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY.MIL</a>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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