

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

August 5, 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

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 & 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.

CDC Interim Guideline: Planning for a Possible U.S. Influenza Vaccine Shortage, 2005-06 Season

- A document titled Interim Guideline: Planning for a Possible U.S. Influenza Vaccine Shortage: 2005-06 Season, has been developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to aid state and local immunization programs in planning for and dealing with an influenza vaccine shortage. Much of the Guideline is a compendium of those planning and implementation practices found necessary by federal, state and local health departments and their partners during the 2004-05 trivalent influenza vaccine shortage (TIV). A set of TIV shortage scenarios applying the guideline is an appendix to the document. The Interim Guideline is attached to this briefing and will be available on the CDC influenza website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>. A related document entitled Tiered Use of Inactivated Influenza Vaccine in the Event of a Vaccine Shortage, can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5430a4.htm>

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Federal Advisory Groups Recommend Priorities for Vaccination and Antivirals During a Pandemic

- On July 19, 2005 additional modifications were made to the draft Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan. Priorities for distribution of limited supplies of influenza vaccine and antivirals were determined and recommendations for the role of the federal government with regard to purchase of vaccine in the event of a pandemic were developed. The committees considered available epidemiological data, recommendations from bioethicists and stakeholder groups (e.g., medical and healthcare organizations, vaccine manufacturers, public health and patient advocacy groups) and current estimates of stockpiles and production capacities. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemicplan/index.html>.

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.

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.

Emergency Credentialing Program

- Over 3,450 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.

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.

Training/Education

- Twenty eight thousand three hundred and nineteen (28,319) personnel representing healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM101 or EM 102 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- Introduction to Personal Protective Equipment for Infection Control (EM 120), an on-line PPE/decontamination course aligned with OSHA-defined competencies for first responder awareness level, is 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.

**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.

Regional Planning: Surge Capacity

- The Council of Governments Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV) Region 7 conducted a Surge Capacity Planning meeting on June 24, 2005 at St. Mary's Hospital. Participants included 12 Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs), St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury Health Department, Pomperaug Health Department and the Naugatuck Valley Health District. The main focus of the meeting was to start a dialogue with all of the healthcare partners related to surge capacity issues in an emergency and to invite LTCFs to serve on the Health and Medical Subcommittee of Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee. An LTCF informational/needs assessment survey tool is under development by Mark Casey (St. Mary's Hospital), Ralph Miro (Waterbury Hospital), Bob Guastella (Haven Health Center of Waterbury) and Virginia Mason (COGCNV). This survey will be sent out to the 39 LTCFs in Region 7 and results will be reviewed at an upcoming Region 7 meeting. The survey tool will be made available to other southern tier hospitals to use in their regional surge capacity planning, if interested. Please contact Mukesh Roy at 203-688-2563 or Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org if you have questions.

**Questions, comments or suggestions should be
forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or
by e-mail to:
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,
RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	11/3/2005	5:00 P.M.	TRAINING OFFICER 401-462-7122 MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY.MIL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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