

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

1 Church Street, 5th Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · OEPWEB@ynhh.org

ELEVATED

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Threat Level

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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>.

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.

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.

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 nine train-the-trainer programs. Those communities who have completed the required training of their first responders and implemented a method of managing storage and quality control for the kits, will receive Mark I kits from the State through 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Emergency Credentialing Program
- 2 Training and Education
- 2 Bioterrorism Collection Kit Training
- 3 Upcoming Meetings and Events

Emergency Credentialing Program

- In a recent press release attached to this briefing, Governor Rell endorsed the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program and urged Connecticut healthcare professionals to consider volunteering. Governor Rell noted that the program "significantly strengthens Connecticut's level of preparedness" by supporting our Connecticut hospitals' ability to effectively respond to a large-scale disaster. To date, 3,467 healthcare professionals have volunteered for the program. Potential volunteers can now access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html>. Meetings are being scheduled with individual hospital based ECP contacts to describe the program in greater detail. If you have not done so already, please forward the name of your hospital's ECP coordinator to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org
- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, MD received a letter from Richard J. Smith, III, Acting Deputy Associate Administrator at HRSA thanking the Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program team for an "invaluable contribution to the development of the ESAR-VHP program". In his letter Mr. Smith specifically noted the contributions of Mary Duley, Elaine Forte, Carol Luddy, Jim Rush, Lynda Nemeth and the Statewide Credentialing Committee chaired by Karen Buckley-Bates.

Bioterrorism Collection Kit Training

- The Bioterrorism (BT) workgroup at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory has recently upgraded the bioterrorism collection kit to include materials that will be required to collect patient specimens from a chemical weapon of mass destruction exposure. Representatives from the BT workgroup of the State laboratory will deliver the training at each hospital. Each session will last 45 minutes and can be scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays after 9 a.m.. The emergency departments and laboratories at each hospital are asked to send a representative to the training. One point of contact in charge of scheduling the training should be designated by each hospital. The designated contact from each hospital should contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor at 203-688-2594 or Virginia.kristie@ynhh.org to schedule a date for the training or to address any questions.

Training/Education

- Twenty eight thousand six hundred and seventy nine (28,679) personnel representing healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 or EM 102 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are co-sponsors of the first National Conference for Hospital-Based First Receivers, October 6-7, 2005 in Washington, DC. Leaders in the field of emergency management will provide practical tools to assist hospital staff in the development of a comprehensive plan to maintain a high level of emergency preparedness, improve management of mass casualty or catastrophic events, and to create a safer environment for staff and patients. Further information can be found at <http://www.jcrinc.com/education.asp?durki=9267&site=5&return=8386>.
- The Connecticut Department of Public Health is sponsoring an Introduction to Public Health course targeted at state and local public health personnel, health care personnel and emergency responders who have had no formal public health training. Participants may choose to attend one of two sessions: September 13, 2005 at Tolland Fire Training Center or September 26, 2005 at the Connecticut Hospital Association. The course is being held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. Registration is required through <http://ct.train.org>. Please contact Christopher Stan at the Department of Public Health with any questions at 860-509-7133.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Updated Ricin Information Sheet

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released an updated ricin information sheet August 1, 2005. The information sheet describes the health effects of ricin exposure as well as resources for further information. The document is attached to this briefing and may also be located at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin/qa.asp>.

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>
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.	CT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED FIRST RECEIVERS	10/6-7/05		WASHINGTON, DC

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH	9/13/05 9/26/05	8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.	TOLLAND FIRE TRAINING CENTER CT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
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:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG
JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG
SCOTT SELIG	EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2587	SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG
RICHARD KLEINDIENST, SR.	MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS COORDINATOR	(203) 688-3912	RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG
MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2563	MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG
CAROL LUDDY	EMERGENCY CREDENTIALING PROGRAM COORDINATOR	(203) 688-5544	CAROL.LUDDY@YNHH.ORG