

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

October 7, 2005

Heightened State of Alert on Metro-North: **New**

- On Thursday night, October 6th, Governor Rell ordered increased security on Metro-North trains due to a credible terrorist threat against the New York City subway system. Police officers will begin checking strollers, bags, briefcases and luggage for explosives. Although Homeland Security officials in Washington are downplaying the threat, Governor Rell encourages commuters to be alert to anything suspicious, such as unattended bags or briefcases and to report concerns to uniformed state troopers or Metro-North workers.

Emergency Credentialing Program: **Updated**

- The rapid and positive response of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), hospitals, physicians and registered nurses to last week's request for activation of the Emergency Credentialing System (ECS) program, highlighted our statewide commitment to not only support our state based colleagues during a large scale disaster, but also our colleagues across the nation. The addition of those volunteers who were willing to travel to the Gulf region brings our program volunteer count to 3,628. All healthcare professions and all Connecticut hospitals are currently represented in the program. To facilitate the integration of state based emergency credentialing programs, Mary Duley, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator for DPH, has been working with her colleagues throughout New York and the New England to develop a consistent, regional approach to the recruitment and pre-qualifying processes for emergency credentialing program volunteers. Connecticut's program will serve as the model for discussion at the Health Resources and Services Administration Region I meeting scheduled for early November. Each hospital that has agreed to participate in the ECS program should provide the name of a primary and back-up contact person who will provide the minimal organizational resource needed for program recruitment and maintenance. Hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to offset this expense. Carol Luddy, RN ECS Program Coordinator is available to meet with hospital contacts to describe the program in greater detail. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated ECS contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org.

Training/Education: **Updated**

- Twenty nine thousand eight hundred and thirteen (29,813) 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.
- Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103) has been launched on both the YNHHS OEP learning management system <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/>. This updated version of Emergency Management 102 provides helpful guidance to all healthcare workers on the needs of special populations, including children, the elderly, the disabled and non-English speakers. As with EM 102, the course is able to be completed within approximately 25 minutes and will also be made available on a narrated CD-ROM and as an instructor-led program. A Spanish version is also under development. Please contact Mark Schneider, OEP Education and Training Supervisor, at 203-688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org for more information on EM 103 or to discuss further ways in which we might be able to help you with your emergency preparedness education and training needs.
- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, with generous financial support from the Wallingford Health Department, has developed a web-based distance learning self-study course for first responders on the Biohazard Detection System (BDS). BDS is an instrument that can detect anthrax in the mail passing through US Postal Service processing and distribution facilities. There are three such facilities with BDS in Connecticut and many others across the country. If the BDS indicates the possible presence of anthrax in the mail, then immediate, complicated, and highly coordinated actions from the first responders are required. Training of first responders on BDS is very important and this distance-learning course would be useful for any first responder in Connecticut. The course is hosted by the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC) and can be accessed via TRAINConnecticut, at <http://ct.train.org>.
- Hartford Hospital's Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Program is sponsoring a free symposium on explosives Wednesday, October 26, 2005 in the Hartford Hospital Gilman Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program will feature presentations by Jim Crabtree, RN, BSN, MICN Disaster Training Specialist, EMS Agency Los Angeles County, California and Alan Payne, Paramedic Duty Station Officer, Hillingdon Ambulance Station, London Ambulance Service. Mr. Crabtree will provide a comprehensive look at explosive device types, injuries incurred and treatment and triage of victims. Mr. Payne will discuss EMS response to Mass Casualty Incidents, as well as London's response to the July terrorist bombings. This program is free to all attendees including: EMS, fire, emergency management, hospital and law enforcement personnel. Participants will receive continental breakfast, lunch and a certificate of attendance. For further information and registration contact Jon Barbagallo at 860-545-1215 or jbarbag@harthosp.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 CDC Health Advisories
- 2 CDC Influenza Communication Call
- 2 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 3 Upcoming Training & Education

First Connecticut Death from West Nile Virus since 2001: **New**

- An elderly New Britain man became the second person to die in Connecticut from the West Nile Virus (WNV) since 2001. While 55 individuals have died around the nation this year due to WNV, these deaths are unusual and most have occurred in the elderly. Since the virus remains a threat until the first frost of the season, Connecticut residents are urged to continue taking precautions to avoid mosquito bites, including wearing long sleeves and pants and using bug spray.

CDC Health Advisories: **New**

- **Presence of Low Levels of Fancisella Tularensis Detected in Washington, DC:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has become aware that from September 24th through September 25th environmental air monitors in Washington D.C., more specifically the Capitol Mall area, signaled the low level presence of *Francisella tularensis*, the bacterium that causes Tularemia, also known as “rabbit fever.” At this time, public health agencies have no reports of any related human or animal illnesses. The clinical presentations most likely to occur after an aerosol exposure to *Francisella tularensis* are pneumonic, oculoglandular and oropharyngeal. The usual incubation period is 3-5 days, but in rare instances can be longer. The disease is not communicable from person to person and can be effectively treated with readily available antimicrobials. CDC does not recommend mass or targeted prophylaxis at this time because the usual incubation period has passed without an increase in suspicious illnesses in the area, and air sampling since September 25th has been negative. Further information on Tularemia can be found at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/tularemia/>.
- **Menactra Meningococcal Vaccine and Guillain Barre Syndrome:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are alerting consumers and health care providers to five reports of Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) following administration of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine A, C, Y and W 135 (trade name Menactra) manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur. It is not yet know whether these cases were caused by the vaccine or are coincidental. The five cases of GBS reported following administration of Menactra occurred in individuals living in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. All five patients were 17 or 18 years of age. There are no changes in recommendations for vaccinations at this time.

CDC Clinical Outreach Communication Activity October 11, 2005: Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is sponsoring a clinical outreach communication activity (COAC) call that will take place on October 11, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. The topic of the call will be the upcoming flu season and is presented by Dr. Ray Strikas and Kari Sapsis from the National Immunization Program at the CDC. Topics will include the status of the influenza vaccine supply, the recommended priority groups for vaccination as well as resources for up-to-date information regarding the vaccine. The dial in number for the call is 888-566-6584 and the passcode is influenza. Additional CDC resources regarding influenza can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

Smallpox Pre-event Vaccination System Database Training

- The Department of Public Health will be conducting the Smallpox Pre-event Vaccination System (PVS) Database training October 20, 2005, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Hartford. Each southern tier hospital should have at least 2 staff trained to use the PVS database. Hospital personnel attending this training should have data entry or information technology background. To register please log in to <http://ct.train.org> .

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 MEETING	10/13/05	8:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
A VISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT	10/21/05	8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.	HARTFORD MARRIOTT ROCKY HILL, CT

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
INFLUENZA AND THE RISK OF PANDEMIC FLU THE RISK OF TULAREMIA	10/11/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML REGISTER 800-535-6232
SMALLPOX RADIATION EMERGENCIES AND EXPOSURES	10/18/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML REGISTER 800-535-6232
UNDERSTANDING AIR QUALITY IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM PERSONAL PROTECTION	10/25/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML REGISTER 800-535-6232
HARTFORD HOSPITAL'S BIOTERRORISM AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM "EXPLOSIVES SYMPOSIUM"	10/26/05	9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	HARTFORD HOSPITAL GILMAN AUDITORIUM REGISTER BY PHONE 860-545- 1215 OR EMAIL JBARBAG@HARTHOSP.ORG
ELIMINATING TB CASE BY CASE: A TB CASE SERIES FOR PROVIDERS AND CLINICIANS	10/26/05	12:00 NOON	ACCESS THE TB CASE SERIES (SW88568) ONLINE AT WWW.MYMEETINGS.COM/NC/JOIN.PHP?I=SW88568&P=&T=C
CHEMICAL TERRORISM CHEMICAL AGENTS OF OPPORTUNITY	11/1/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML REGISTER 800-535-6232
INTRODUCTION TO PUBIC HEALTH HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG	11/1/05 11/9/05	8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. 8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.	WESTERN CT STATE UNIV. STUDENT CENTER KENSINGTON GARDEN, SOUTHURY

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION CONTINUED

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
EMS OPERATIONS AND PLANNING FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION	11/1 TO 11/3/05	8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.	RHODE ISLAND MICHELLE SAN SOUCI, TRAINING OFFICER 401-462-7122 MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY. MIL
LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	11/8/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML REGISTER 800-535-6232
NATIONAL DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT COURSES:			
BASIC DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT	11/17/05	8:00 A.M. TO	CONTACT DAVID BURICH AT 203- 688-3721 OR DAVID.BURICH@YNHH.ORG FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION.
ADVANCED DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT	11/18-19/05	4:00 P.M.	
INSTRUCTOR COURSE	11/20/05	8:00 A.M. TO	
		4:00 P.M. 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	

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
LOUISE-MARIE DEMBRY, MD	OEP ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688 -4634	LOUISE-MARIE.DEMBRY@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