

## 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

October 14, 2005

Avian Influenza: **New**

- Tests conducted October 13, 2005 by the World Organization for Animal Health have confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in samples taken from domestic birds in Turkey. The spread of H5N1 to poultry in more than 10 countries is of concern as it increases opportunities for further human cases to occur. However, all evidence to date indicates that the H5N1 virus does not spread easily from birds to infect humans. The World Health Organization (WHO) advises countries experiencing outbreaks in poultry to follow certain precautions, particularly during culling operations, and to monitor persons with a possible exposure history for fever or respiratory symptoms. The early symptoms of H5N1 infection mimic those of many other common respiratory illnesses, meaning that false alarms are likely. The WHO level of pandemic alert remains unchanged at phase 3: a virus new to humans is causing infections, but does not spread easily from one person to another. Direct contact with infected poultry, or surfaces and objects contaminated by their droppings, is considered the main route of human infection. Exposure risk is considered highest during slaughter, de-feathering, butchering, and preparation of poultry for cooking. There is no evidence that properly cooked poultry or poultry products can be a source of infection.
- According to a draft copy of the federal government's flu pandemic preparedness plan obtained by the New York Times, the United States is "woefully unprepared" to tackle a full-scale disease outbreak, which the plan suggests could kill as many as 1.9 million Americans and affect more than half of the country's population. The 381-page plan details a course of action for Health and Human Services officials during each phase of the pandemic, beginning with planning for such an outbreak and ending with coordinating with the Department of Defense to maintain order at overwhelmed hospitals and vaccination clinics and to tackle food and power shortages.
- The latest information regarding Avian Flu can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/> and <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/> and [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/).

Pakistan Earthquake: **New**

- According to the World Health Organization more than 30,000 people are feared dead from the October 8, 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. Of the four million affected people over one million are in acute need of humanitarian assistance and tens of thousands suffer from injuries. WHO reports that 26 hospitals including three specialized tuberculosis hospitals have been destroyed or are too dangerous to keep open. Most of the 600 health clinics in the affected areas are also thought to be destroyed or severely damaged. Engineers are assessing whether some of the damaged health buildings can still be used.

Upcoming Flu Season: **New**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted educational materials for use in promoting flu vaccination and a checklist to help determine who should get a flu shot before Oct. 24, based on CDC recommendations <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>. In September, CDC recommended certain priority groups receive the inactivated vaccine until Oct. 24, citing uncertainties regarding the production of flu vaccine. Those groups include people 65 and older, residents of long-term care facilities, people ages two and older with co-morbid conditions, pregnant women, children ages 6 to 23 months, health care workers providing direct patient care, and household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than six months.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsored a clinical outreach communication activity (COAC) on October 11, 2005. The call is available for replay by calling 800-839-1334. The topic of the call was the upcoming flu season and was presented by Dr. Ray Strikas and Kari Sapsis from the National Immunization Program at the CDC. Topics included 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. Slides from the presentation may be accessed at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp>.
- As the cold and flu season approaches, everyone can do their part to limit the spread of disease-causing germs and viruses by washing hands often and covering their nose and mouth when coughing. Healthcare workers in particular should be vigilant with hand hygiene and facilities should review universal respiratory etiquette (URE) policies and signage, and ensure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment are available in the emergency department and ambulatory care waiting areas. By implementing these simple preventive measures, hospitals and healthcare workers can help their communities minimize the spread of infectious diseases.

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### Training/Education: **Updated**

- Twenty nine thousand eight hundred and thirty (29,830) 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](mailto: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](mailto:jbarbag@harthosp.org).

### New England Journal of Medicine Articles Describe Physician Perspectives of Hurricane Katrina: **New**

- In a collection of essays in the October 13, 2005 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, physicians detail the harrowing ordeal of being stuck inside crippled hospitals and shelters after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans. Some describe the chaos of having too much of some things such as doctors and nurses whose specialties were not needed and too little of others, like batteries and a plan for provision of care. The essays can be accessed for no charge at the New England Journal of Medicine website <http://content.nejm.org/>.

### Emergency Credentialing Program: **New**

- Among the lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is the need for improved coordination of volunteers within and between states. In Connecticut, healthcare professionals interested in assisting during a large-scale disaster either in-state or out of state are strongly encouraged to enroll with the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing program. Participation as a volunteer through this state-coordinated program ensures that the volunteer is provided with adequate liability and workers compensation coverage when deployed as part of Connecticut's Medical Reserve Corps. Processing volunteer requests through authorized Emergency Management Assistance Compact channels also ensures that volunteers are sent when and where they are needed most, better directing potentially scarce resources. For more information on Connecticut's Emergency Credentialing Program, please contact Carol Luddy at 203-688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).

### 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 at a location to be determined. 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>.

### Letters Available Regarding the Extension of Smallpox Vaccine License: **New**

- Letters from Wyeth extending the license of the Dryvax(r) vaccine for small pox are available online at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/wyethlicense.asp>

### National Disaster Life Support Course: **New**

- Reports about the recent events in the gulf region and the need for coordinated, appropriate medical disaster response demonstrate the continued necessity for education and training for healthcare professionals and other first responders to prepare them for large-scale disaster response. There are still openings in the series of National Disaster Life Support Courses offered in New Haven from November 17 - 20 by the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, in collaboration with the American Medical Association. The eight hour Basic Disaster Life Support Course will be held on November 17 and provides an overview of disasters and the role of the public health system. The Advanced Disaster Life Support Course will be held on November 18 and 19 and combines more in-depth lectures on triage and treatment with a full day of hands-on practice. Both courses offer Category 1 CME credits and a certificate of training valid for four years. An additional instructor level course will be offered on November 20 for interested, qualified individuals. Please contact David Burich at 203-688-3721, [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org) or Scott Dilley 203-688-2665, [scott.dilley@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.dilley@ynhh.org) for more information on registering for these valuable emergency response training opportunities.

**UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SMALLPOX RADIATION EMERGENCIES AND EXPOSURES	10/18/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM <a href="http://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML">HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML</a> 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 <a href="http://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML">HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML</a> 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 <a href="http://WWW.MYMEETINGS.COM/NC/JOIN.PHP?I=SW88568&amp;P=&amp;T=C">WWW.MYMEETINGS.COM/NC/JOIN. PHP?I=SW88568&amp;P=&amp;T=C</a>
CHEMICAL TERRORISM CHEMICAL AGENTS OF OPPORTUNITY	11/1/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM <a href="http://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML">HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML</a> REGISTER 800-535-6232
INTRODUCTION TO PUBIC HEALTH <a href="http://CT.TRAIN.ORG">HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG</a>	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 <a href="mailto:MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY.MIL">MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY. MIL</a>
LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	11/8/05	7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.	UCONN HEALTH CENTER PATTERSON AUDITORIUM <a href="http://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML">HTTP://CME.UCHC.EDU/CE/MMS.HTML</a> REGISTER 800-535-6232
NATIONAL DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT COURSES: BASIC DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT ADVANCED DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT INSTRUCTOR COURSE	11/17/05  11/18-19/05  11/20/05	8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.	CONTACT DAVID BURICH 203- 688-3721, <a href="mailto:DAVID.BURICH@YNHH.ORG">DAVID.BURICH@YNHH.ORG</a> OR SCOTT DILLEY 203-688-2665, <a href="mailto:SCOTT.DILLEY@YNHH.ORG">SCOTT.DILLEY@YNHH.ORG</a> FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
A VISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT	10/21/05	8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.	HARTFORD MARRIOTT ROCKY HILL, CT

**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)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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