

## 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**

Volume 3, Issue 42

Threat Level

October 21, 2005

Avian Influenza: **Updated**

- The Yale New Haven Center of Excellence (YNHHS CoE) is working with clinical experts to determine what type of strategy is needed to address the issues surrounding a potential pandemic event. The results of this strategy will be distributed for review by the YNHHS CoE Southern Tier hospitals, the Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence and Connecticut Department of Public Health as discussed at the October 13, 2005 Southern Tier Hospital meeting.
- At a Health Resources and Services Administration meeting held October 20 through 21 in Rockville Maryland, William Raub, PhD, Senior Science Advisor to Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt, discussed the Federal pandemic plan which is currently under development. The plan will include basic infection control measures to be implemented in the event of an outbreak and is scheduled to be released for review within the next several weeks.
- On Thursday October 20, 2005 it was reported that a 48-year-old Thai man is the 67th person known to have been killed by the avian flu virus which appears to be steadily creeping into Europe and towards Africa. All the human deaths from avian flu have so far been in Asia but the deadly H5N1 strain was detected this month in birds in Russia, Turkey and Romania, sparking growing concern in Europe over a disease that could kill millions if it mutates. In Brussels, the European Union (EU) said more tests were needed to determine whether Greece had become the first EU country to be hit by the virus.
- Most cases of H5N1 infection in humans are thought to have occurred from direct contact with infected poultry in the affected countries. Therefore, when possible, care should be taken to avoid contact with live, well-appearing, sick, or dead poultry and with any surfaces that may have been contaminated by poultry or their feces or secretions. So far, spread of H5N1 virus from one ill person to another has been reported very rarely and transmission has not been observed to continue beyond one person. An inactivated vaccine to protect humans against influenza A (H5N1) is not yet available, but one is undergoing human clinical trials in the United States. The H5N1 viruses currently infecting birds and some humans in Asia are resistant to amantadine and rimantadine, two antiviral medications commonly used to treat influenza. The H5N1 viruses are susceptible to the antiviral medications oseltamivir and zanamavir, but the effectiveness of these drugs when used for treatment of H5N1 virus infection is unknown. For information about CDC recommendations for enhanced surveillance, diagnostic evaluation and infection control precautions for H5N1, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/professional/han081304.htm>.
- The latest information regarding Avian Flu can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>  
Updated information posted October 17, 2005 includes; key facts, infections in humans, transmission between animals and people, outbreak information, flu pandemics and notice to travelers.  
<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/>  
[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)  
Updated information posted October 19, 2005 includes frequently asked questions.

Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- 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 October 24, based on CDC recommendations <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>. In September, CDC recommended certain priority groups receive the inactivated vaccine until October 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 October 21, 2005 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) includes two articles related to influenza. The first explores influenza vaccination levels among persons aged greater than 65 years as well as persons aged 18 to 64 with high risk conditions in 2003 in the United States. The article can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5441a3.htm>. The second article presents the results of a survey of obstetricians and gynecologists practices for influenza vaccination in pregnancy and can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5441a4.htm>.

## Reminder: Anti-Viral Survey Deadline is Today:

**New**

- At the request of Commissioner Galvin, Mary Duley at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has sent a follow up to the July 2005 anti-viral survey in order to obtain an updated figure for amounts of anti-virals located at Connecticut acute care hospitals. Hospital planning contacts should work with pharmacy staff & directors to assure this survey is completed and returned to Mary Duley at [mary.duley@po.state.ct.us](mailto:mary.duley@po.state.ct.us) by close of business today, Friday, October 21st. A copy of the survey is attached to this briefing and any questions can be referred to Mukesh Roy at 203-688-2563, [Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org).

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### FY 2003 State of Connecticut Homeland Security Grant Program Reminder: **New**

- Connecticut's thirty one (31) acute care Hospitals are eligible to receive a grant in aid in the amount of ten thousand dollars through the fiscal year 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program for the cost of acquiring pharmaceutical supplies needed to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive incident. In conformance with the statewide planning activities, this grant serves as an initial step in assisting disaster coordinators and first responders. The deadline for the return of the completed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) package is October 30, 2005 and all related purchase orders must be processed by December 15, 2005. The associated reimbursement package is attached to this briefing. Please contact Rosemary Salerno in the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety Grants Administration at 860-685-8274, or Debbie Gross in the YNH CoE at 203-688-3317, [debbie.gross@ynhh.org](mailto:debbie.gross@ynhh.org) with any questions.

### Emergency Credentialing Program

- 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).

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

- 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 visit our website at [http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/ndls\\_events.html](http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/ndls_events.html) or contact Scott Dilley at 203-688-2665, [scott.dilley@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.dilley@ynhh.org) for more information on registering for these valuable emergency response training opportunities.

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

- Thirty thousand and fifty nine (30,059) 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 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).

### Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Regional Planning Boundaries: **New**

- As discussed at the October 13, 2005 Southern Tier meeting, please find the latest version of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security regional planning boundaries map attached to this briefing. Any questions related to the map and boundaries may be referred to Mukesh Roy at 203-688-2563, [Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org).

Connecticut Public Television Series: Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge: **New**

- Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge is a new six-part miniseries airing on Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) over three nights. The series highlights public health breakthroughs and interventions that have more than doubled life expectancy in developed countries within the past century. The series explores how lack of access to basic interventions leaves many impoverished countries plagued by preventable diseases. The series includes: Disease Warriors -- Rise of the Superbugs, Delivering the Goods – Deadly Messengers and Back to the Basics – How Safe Are We? Further information on the series and air times and dates can be found at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/rxforsurvival/>.

### UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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 <a href="mailto:JBARBAG@HARTHOSP.ORG">JBARBAG@HARTHOSP.ORG</a>
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 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>
TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRITICAL INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE & EXPO	10/31/05 TO 11/2/05		MARRIOTT SAN DIEGO HOTEL <a href="http://www.regonline.com/event/info.asp?EVENTID=21494">HTTP://WWW.REGONLINE.COM/EVENT INFO.ASP? EVENTID=21494</a>
SOUTHERN TIER MEETING	11/10/05	8:30 A.M.	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

**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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