

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

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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 to the Southern Tier hospitals, the Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has published a Checklist for Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Planning. The aim of the pandemic preparedness checklist is to provide an outline of the essential minimum elements of preparedness for a pandemic, as well as elements of preparedness that are considered desirable. WHO recommends that responsible authorities or institutes that are in the process of planning consider the specific aspects of the checklist for which they are responsible. The plan is attached to this briefing.
- The Ministry of Public Health in Thailand has confirmed an additional case of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza. The patient, a seven year old boy, is the son of another confirmed case who died on October 19. Two additional cases have also been confirmed in Indonesia. Epidemiological investigations uncovered exposure to infected poultry as the likely source of infection for all these cases.
- The cumulative number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza reported to the World Health Organization as of October 24 was 121 cases and 62 deaths. Updated information on confirmed cases can be found at http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2005_10_24/en/index.html.
- 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. The 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 zanamivir, 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 25, 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/
Updated information posted October 27, 2005 includes frequently asked questions and infection rates.

Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche Holding announced Thursday that it has temporarily suspended shipments of the anti-viral drug Tamiflu in the United States to ensure that enough treatments will be available for the regular influenza season. Roche spokesman Alexander Klauser said that Roche's U.S. management suspended the shipments because of the increased global demand for Tamiflu, the drug that experts believe is most effective in treating flu in humans. Demand has increased due to fears of the potential spread of bird flu.
- Influenza vaccination rates among health care workers have historically been less than 50%. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Foundation for Infectious Disease (NFID) have set a goal for 2005 vaccination levels among health care workers to be increased to 80% or better. This initiative is based on the well-documented fact that physicians and nurses transmit influenza to their patients and have an obligation to be vaccinated, not so much for self protection but for patient safety and well-being. Given the ample supply of influenza vaccine for this season, all health care workers should be vaccinated.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention flu website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

FY 2003 State of Connecticut Homeland Security Grant Program Reminder

- 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 YNHHS CoE at 203-688-3317, debbie.gross@ynhh.org with any questions.

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Emergency Credentialing Program: Updated

- Using lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Statewide Emergency Credentialing Program Committee will be drafting policy and procedure recommendations for out of state deployment of volunteers enrolled in the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP). Recommendations regarding the request for volunteers through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the timing and process for soliciting volunteer participation, making travel arrangements and ensuring volunteer safety will be included as well as standards for defining the deployed volunteer's role and responsibilities. Volunteers who participate in the ECP are ensured that adequate liability and workers compensation coverage is available to them when deployed as part of Connecticut's Medical Reserve Corps. Processing volunteer requests through authorized EMAC channels ensures that our state's resources will not be depleted and that volunteers are sent when and where they are needed most. For more information on Connecticut's Emergency Credentialing Program, please contact Carol Luddy, RN at 203-688-5544 or via email at carol.luddy@ynhh.org.

Training/Education: Updated

- Two new courses are currently under development for release on the YNHHS-OEP online Learning Management System. Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital Based First Receivers (Emergency Management 120) is aligned with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defined competencies for first receivers to respond to a hazardous exposure and is expected to be available by December. Mental Health Aspects of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals (EM 230) addresses the mental health needs of patients and families in a disaster and is expected to be released in early 2006. Please contact Mark Schneider, OEP Education and Training Supervisor, at 203-688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org for more information on emergency management training programs 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>.

National Disaster Life Support Course

- 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 or contact Scott Dilley at 203-688-2665, scott.dilley@ynhh.org for more information on registering for these valuable emergency response training opportunities.

Bioterrorism and Mass Casualty Preparedness in Hospitals: United States 2003: New

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics recently published a study of Bioterrorism and Mass Casualty Preparedness in Hospitals: United States 2003. The study examined content of hospital terrorism preparedness emergency response plans, clinical training related to bioterrorism, surge capacity and drills and exercises. The study of 500 non-Federal hospitals found that almost all hospitals have plans for responding to natural disasters. However, only one-fifth of hospitals reported conducting drills for explosions which is the most common form of terrorism. The full text article can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad364.pdf>.

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	11/10/05	8:30 A.M.	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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, SOUTHBURY
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 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, SCOTT.DILLEY@YNHH.ORG FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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