

## 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 · [OEPCWEB@ynhh.org](mailto:OEPCWEB@ynhh.org)**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

November 4, 2005

Pandemic Influenza Plan: **New**

- On Tuesday November 1, 2005, President Bush outlined the national strategy to safeguard against a potential pandemic influenza event. The President requested \$7.1 billion in emergency funding to begin immediately implementing a national strategy for pandemic influenza. The request includes funds to accelerate the development of cell-culture technology, the development of new treatments and vaccines, stockpile antiviral medications and more than \$1.5 billion for the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Defense to purchase influenza vaccines. While there is no current pandemic influenza outbreak, there is still reason to be concerned. In the last century, the United States and the world have experienced three influenza pandemics and viruses from birds contributed to all of them. Avian flu has developed some of the characteristics needed to cause a pandemic. The virus has demonstrated the ability to infect and produce a fatal illness in humans. If the virus developed the capacity for sustained human-to-human transmission, it could spread quickly around the world. Full details of the national strategy for pandemic influenza are available at [www.PandemicFlu.gov](http://www.PandemicFlu.gov).
- On Wednesday November 2, 2005, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt released the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, a detailed guide for how our nation's health care system can prepare and respond to an influenza pandemic. The HHS plan is the medical and public health component of the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza announced by the President. The HHS plan specifies four major components of preparedness and response to pandemic influenza: intensifying surveillance and collaborating on containment measures both international and domestic; stockpiling of antivirals and vaccines and working with industry to expand capacity for production; creation of a seamless network of Federal, state and local preparedness, including increasing health care surge capacity and developing the public education and communications efforts critical to keeping the public informed. The plan provides guidance to state and local partners on: staffing and supplies required for a surge in patients; distribution of vaccines and antiviral drugs, roles and responsibilities for decision makers in a community and measures to control infection and limit the spread of disease. The HHS plan can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/>.
- A pandemic influenza recommendation for hospitals has been developed by the YNHHS CoE and will be shared with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, Hartford Hospital CoE and Southern Tier hospitals for review and comment.

Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- During the week ending October 22, 2005, Texas reported regional influenza activity. Twelve states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Wyoming), New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity. Details on flu activity can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention flu website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

Avian Influenza: **Updated**

- The cumulative number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza reported to the World Health Organization as of November 1, 2005 was 122 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](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/>  
Information 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/)  
Information includes frequently asked questions and infection rates.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 2 Emergency Credentialing Program
- 2 National Disaster Life Support Course
- 2 CDC Training Opportunities
- 2 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 3 Upcoming Training and Education

**Emergency Credentialing Program: Updated**

- Self assessment tools are being mailed to over 1,400 non-physician professionals who are interested in participating as volunteers in the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP). Each hospital based volunteer will have his or her self assessment reviewed and validated by the employing hospital. These validated self assessments will be included in the statewide ECP database which will be made available to participating hospitals for their use during a declared disaster or public health emergency. Credentialed volunteers enrolled in the ECP could become part of Connecticut's response to pandemic influenza as proposed in the national response strategy outlined by President Bush earlier this week. Professionals interested in the program can access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html> . Participating hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to support the minimal resources needed at their institution for program recruitment and maintenance. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated ECP contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.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](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**

- 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](mailto: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.

**CDC Training Opportunities: New**

- The next Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity entitled Radiological Terrorism: Medical Response to Mass Casualties will take place as a conference call on November 15, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Speakers include James Smith, PhD and Jeffery Nemhauser, MD from the National Center for Environmental Health at CDC. The call in number is (888) 469-3182 and the passcode is "radiation." Further information can be found on the CDC website at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/confcall.asp> .
- On December 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. EST the CDC Public Health Training Network will sponsor a satellite broadcast and web cast regarding Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Using Public Information to Enhance Points of Dispensing Flow. The broadcast is designed for state and local Strategic National Stockpile planners as well as state and local public information officers and will highlight the importance of public information and patient education as it relates to throughput at the points of dispensing for the strategic national stockpile. For more information please visit <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/antibiotic4/> .

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)

**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>
INTRODUCTION TO PUBIC HEALTH <a href="http://ct.train.org">HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG</a>	11/9/05	8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.	KENSINGTON GARDEN, SOUTHBURY
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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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