

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

Volume 3, Issue 45

Threat Level

November 11, 2005

Pandemic Influenza: **New**

- The Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence (YNHHS CoE) has developed recommended strategies in preparation for a possible pandemic influenza event. The strategies address stockpiling of personal protective equipment and pharmaceuticals, universal respiratory etiquette as well as plans for communication with clinical staff, senior leadership and the community. The pandemic influenza strategy document is attached to this briefing.
- The YNHHS CoE pandemic influenza strategy and related resources were distributed to and reviewed by the Southern Tier hospitals and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. The documents may be viewed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/index.html>.
- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has requested that the YNHHS CoE share the pandemic influenza strategy documents with YNHHS CoE nursing homes and community health centers.
- The official U.S. government web site for information on pandemic flu and avian influenza is <http://pandemicflu.gov/>.
- The Department of Health and Human Services pandemic influenza plan was released last week and can be viewed at <http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resources for Pandemic Flu <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic.htm>
- Ask Dr. Gerberding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H., answers questions about avian influenza on the White House web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ask/20051101.html>.
- Most cases of avian influenza 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 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/
Information includes frequently asked questions and infection rates.

Upcoming Flu Season: **New**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their information on vaccine supply and prioritization recommendations for the United States 2005-06 influenza season at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/0506supply.htm>. The CDC estimates that over 80 million doses of vaccine will be available and approximately 71 million doses have been delivered to date. According to the CDC the total amount of vaccine available is enough to meet past consumer demand which has usually been around 70 to 75 million doses. However, it is possible that in some communities current demand for vaccine is exceeding what has been seen in previous years, perhaps due to increased media attention. Additionally, Chiron Corporation recently announced that it will not be able to produce as much vaccine as was originally anticipated. As a result providers and distributors who ordered from Chiron will receive substantially less vaccine than requested.
- During the week ending November 5, 2005, 16 states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah), New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity. Details on flu activity can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention flu website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

Pre-event Vaccination System Database Training: **New**

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Bioterrorism Public Health Response Program will be offering Pre-event Vaccination System (PVS) database training November 17 and 29. This hands-on introduction to the PVS is designed for persons who will be entering rosters of Connecticut smallpox mass vaccinations into the database and for leaders of these response teams who will be reviewing and manipulating the data. The training consists of an overview lecture on the database followed by entry of the test data. Training registration and details are available at <http://ct.train.org>.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Emergency Credentialing Program
- 2 National Disaster Life Support Course
- 2 Laboratory Emergency Preparedness Updates
- 2 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 3 Upcoming Training and Education

Emergency Credentialing Program: **Updated**

- In a rationale put forward in its 2006 Hospital Accreditation Standards for Emergency Management Planning, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) reiterates the possibility that hospitals could suddenly and significantly experience a surge in demand for services. Proposed "New Standard HR.1.25" and proposed "New Standard HR.4.35" encourage hospitals to partner with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) - which includes volunteers enrolled in the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP) - as a way to meet personnel surge capacity needs during a large scale disaster or public health emergency. The proposed standards may be viewed on the JCAHO site at http://www.jcaho.com/accredited+organizations/ambulatory+care/standards/draft+standards/hr_435_stds.pdf and http://www.jcaho.com/accredited+organizations/ambulatory+care/standards/draft+standards/hr_125_stds.pdf. To date 3,657 healthcare volunteers representing all disciplines, all hospitals and numerous non-acute care hospital settings throughout the state have enrolled in the ECP which is a component of the State of Connecticut MRC. 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.

Laboratory Emergency Preparedness Updates: **New**

- Nearly all of Connecticut's acute care hospital laboratories (78%) have completed the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Laboratory's new collection kit response training. This training has been delivered on site by representatives from the DPH Chemical Response Team. The training has provided both emergency department and laboratory staff with the protocol that will be used for the collection of patient specimens from individuals that have been exposed to chemical weapons of mass destruction agents. To make arrangements to schedule this training, please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor at virginia.kristie@ynhh.org or 203-688-2594.
- Hospitals that have received the collection kit response training and are beginning to train other staff members via the "train the trainer" approach should document the names of staff members who have received this training. At the request of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory please fax the names of trained laboratorians to Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor at 203-688-4618 for inclusion in the laboratory response database.
- The 2006 Acute Care Hospital preparedness contract from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will include funds for hospital laboratory participation in the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Laboratory Preparedness Survey module. As a result, all of Connecticut's hospital laboratories that now participate in this preparedness initiative should contact their hospital's emergency preparedness grants administrator to receive reimbursement. CAP has been notified that all of Connecticut's hospital laboratories have agreed to participate in this module and that there has been a change to the "bill to" address. If you have any questions please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor at virginia.kristie@ynhh.org or 203-688-2594.

Training/Education: **Updated**

- Two new courses are currently under development for release on the YNHHS CoE 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.
- "Lessons Learned: A Forum on Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities" will be held December 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Northeast Utilities Auditorium, Berlin, CT. Topics covered during the morning session include "A National Perspective on Disaster Preparedness" and "Connecticut's Disaster Preparedness Plans." The luncheon speaker, Sandee Winchell, Executive Director of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, will discuss "Lessons Learned from Katrina." In the afternoon, small group discussions will take place on various disaster preparation needs: communication, personal assistance, food and water, health and medication, shelter, transportation, utilities, respite, and mental health. There is a \$10.00 registration fee which includes lunch. For further information or a registration form, contact Jessica Jagger at (860) 679-1584 or jjagger@uchc.edu. The registration deadline is November 23.

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.

**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	12/8//05	8:30 A.M.	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
RADIOLOGICAL TERRORISM: MEDICAL RESPONSE TO MASS CASUALTIES	11/15/05	1:00 P.M.	HTTP://WWW.BT.CDC.GOV/COXA/CONFCALL.ASP
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.
PRE-EVENT VACCINATION SYSTEM DATABASE TRAINING	11/17/05 11/29/05		HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG FOR REGISTRATION, TRAINING TIMES AND LOCATION
MASS ANTIBIOTIC DISPENSING: USING PUBLIC INFORMATION TO ENHANCE POINTS OF DISPENSING FLOW	12/1/05	1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.	HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/ANTIBIOTIC4/
"LESSONS LEARNED: A FORUM ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	12/6/05	10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.	NORTHEAST UTILITIES AUDITORIUM, BERLIN, CT JJAGGER@UCHC.EDU

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