

## 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

November 18, 2005

Pandemic Influenza: **Updated**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is distributing a Pandemic Influenza Update published twice a month. The November 9, 2005 issue is attached to this briefing and includes CDC recommendations and updates on H5N1 global activity in human and birds.
- 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 documents can be viewed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/index.html#pandemic>
- At the request of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health the YNHHS Center of Excellence (CoE) has sent copies of the pandemic influenza strategy documents to all of the Southern Tier nursing homes and community health centers.
- The Joint Commission Resources will be sponsoring a phone conference entitled "Avian Influenza: The Next Great Pandemic - Are you and your facility prepared?" The call will take place on December 8, 2005 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The 90 minute audio conference will consist of 60 minutes of formal presentation followed by a 30 minute moderated question and answer session via telephone. The fee associated with the call is \$69 per connection. Organizations can sign up for one telephone connection with multiple attendees participating in one conference room. The expert faculty will clarify the myths about avian influenza, discuss the worldwide healthcare challenges and assist facilities in preparation for a pandemic influenza event. More information can be found at <http://jcrinc.co.mansellgroup.net/UM/T.asp?A2557.25634.1522.1.78378>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) December 6, 2005 Clinician Outreach and Communications Activity conference call topic will be an update on avian influenza. The call will take place at 1 p.m. EST and will feature Scott Dowell, MD, MPH of the Office of Global Health at the CDC. The call will provide information on the current status of avian influenza, vaccine research, treatment options and geographic distribution. Due to the anticipated large number of participants, the CDC recommends calling in 15 to 20 minutes prior to the call time at 1-888-282-0428. The call passcode is "influenza".
- 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>
  - The latest information regarding avian flu can be found at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>  
<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/>  
[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/pandemic/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/pandemic/en/index.html)

Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) has endorsed mandatory flu vaccination for health care professionals who have direct contact with patients, recommending health care facilities develop internal policies to implement such a requirement in their organization. The association, whose members include hospital infection control professionals, said the recommendation by its board of directors recognizes "the dramatic effect health care worker immunization has on reducing flu outbreaks and associated complications." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended flu vaccination for all health care workers since 1981. APIC President Sue Sebazco said voluntary campaigns to vaccinate health care workers are falling short, noting that just 36% of health care professionals currently opt for annual vaccination.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided a transcript of Dr. Julie Gerberding's November 10, 2005 press conference entitled Update on the Influenza Vaccine Supply and Distribution at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/transcripts/t051110.htm>.
- 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/>.

Request for Current Flu Vaccine Status: **New**

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health is requesting that all acute care hospital pharmacies in Connecticut report on their current flu vaccine status. Please ensure that your facility pharmacy representative e-mails Mary Duley at [mary.duley@po.state.ct.us](mailto:mary.duley@po.state.ct.us) to let her know if you are currently without vaccine, in very short supply or have adequate supplies for current demand. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will continue to assist hospitals in any way possible through the influenza season.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 2 Emergency Credentialing Program
- 2 Training and Education
- 2 PVS Training
- 2 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 3 Upcoming Training and Education

**Emergency Credentialing Program: Updated**

- In response to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request from two New Orleans hospitals, five Connecticut healthcare workers (three registered nurse and two clerical staff), identified through the Emergency Credentialing Program process, will be deployed to Louisiana for two weeks beginning November 28. These ongoing requests illustrate the continued need for volunteers throughout the recovery period of a disaster, not just for immediate response. Please continue to encourage staff to sign up for the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program so that Connecticut can continue to support request such as these from around the nation. For more information contact Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).
- 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).

**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](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.
- "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](mailto:jjagger@uchc.edu). The registration deadline is November 23.

**Pre-event Vaccination System Database**

**Training: Updated**

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Bioterrorism Public Health Response Program will be offering Pre-event Vaccination System (PVS) database training November 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>.

**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	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>
PRE-EVENT VACCINATION SYSTEM DATABASE TRAINING	11/29/05		<a href="http://ct.train.org">HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG</a> 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.	<a href="http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/ANTI-BIOTIC4/">HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/ANTI-BIOTIC4/</a>
"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 <a href="mailto:JJAGGER@UCHC.EDU">JJAGGER@UCHC.EDU</a>
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION CLINICIAN OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY CONFERENCE CALL: AN UPDATE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA	12/6/05	1:00 P.M.	1-888-282-0428 PASSCODE: INFLUENZA * DUE TO ANTICIPATED HIGH CALL VOLUME, PLEASE CALL IN 15 TO 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START TIME.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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