

## 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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#### Pandemic Influenza: **Updated**

- Federal health officials have announced plans to stockpile nearly eight million doses of experimental avian flu vaccine by February. Studies will be conducted to determine whether diluting the vaccine is a viable option for stretching the supply. The experimental vaccine is designed to immunize people against the viral strain circulating in birds, but it is unclear how much protection it would provide if the virus evolved to spread readily among humans. Sanofi Pasteur SA of Lyon, France and Chiron Corp. of Emeryville, Calif., are making the experimental vaccine under government contract.
- The Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) System Clinical Advisory Committee (SCAC) 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 YNHHS pandemic influenza strategy document has been sent to system leadership for review and implementation based on delivery network hospital requirements. For a copy of the strategy document CD, contact Richard Kleindienst at 203-688-3912 or [Richard.kleindienst@ynhh.org](mailto:Richard.kleindienst@ynhh.org).
- 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.com>.
- 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". PowerPoint slides for the call will be available from the following link <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp>.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of November 29, 2005 were 133 cases and 68 deaths.

#### Pandemic Influenza Resources: **Updated**

- 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 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 influenza can be found at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/research.htm>  
Pandemic influenza related research  
<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/pandemic/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/pandemic/en/index.html)  
Information includes frequently asked questions and infection rates.

#### Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- During the week ending November 19, 2005, 20 states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming), New York City, and the District of Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity. Thirty states 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/>.

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

- The Yale New Haven Health System sponsored another very successful National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) series of courses November 17-20, 2005. The basic, advanced and instructor-level programs were attended by 25 participants from Connecticut as well as nine other states including Washington, Tennessee, Maine, Maryland, Georgia, Indiana, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. Participants included a cardiologist in charge of his hospital's disaster response; the medical director for a large international corporation, a member of the White House Medical Corps as well as physicians, nurses and paramedics from numerous other hospitals and agencies. A special thanks to the NDLS Instructors that assisted in making the program a success: Helaine Leib, Dennis Brown, Kathy Shea, Nick Senuta, Deb Smith, Andy McGuire, Tom Russell, Paris Sideris, John Foggie, Kelly Martens, Joe Albanese, and Scott Dilley. Six volunteer 'victims' helped to add a sense of realism to the practical station. Special thanks to the North Branford Fire Department, Company Number 2 and the North Branford Ambulance for sharing their facilities. A course schedule for 2006 is currently under development and will be announced shortly. For further information please contact David Burich at 203-688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

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

- **Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital Based First Receivers (EM120) is now available on the OEP learning management system. The thirty minute awareness level course meets OSHA defined competencies for first receivers to respond to a hazardous exposure. This course is recommended for all emergency department staff (clinical and non-clinical) and any other health care workers with potential roles near a hospital decontamination zone. The course may be accessed at <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/> .**
- 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.

#### Emergency Credentialing Program: **Updated**

- Devastation caused by record breaking storms during the 2005 hurricane season once again underscored the need for hospital emergency management planning. A large-scale disaster, such as Hurricane's Katrina and Rita will not only stretch the facility, equipment and financial resources of a hospital, but will greatly strain their human resources as well. Included in hospital plans should be a strategy to provide for personnel who are prepared to assist the hospital staff with meeting the challenges of a sudden surge in patient volume. The purpose for the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP) is to support the personnel surge capacity objectives at Connecticut's acute care hospitals by recruiting and pre-qualifying healthcare providers in advance of a large-scale disaster or public health emergency. To date, 3,666 volunteers representing all disciplines and all hospitals throughout the state are enrolled in the Program. Self-assessment tools are being mailed to over 1,400 non-physician volunteers. Each volunteer will have his or her self assessment reviewed and validated by the employing hospital. These validated self assessments will be included in the web-enabled statewide ECP database which will be made available to participating hospitals for their use during a declared disaster or public health emergency. 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. Professionals interested in the program can access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html> or by contacting Carol Luddy, RN, Emergency Credentialing Program Coordinator via phone at (203) 688-3224 or via email at [ECP@ynhh.org](mailto:ECP@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>
"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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