

## 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**

- Communities will be on the front lines of any effort to stop or contain a pandemic. As a result, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt convened this week senior state and local officials to establish an integrated federal-state influenza-pandemic planning process. HHS advised states to establish a Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee to draft and adopt a plan that will delineate the roles and responsibilities of state and local agencies and offices; build on existing preparedness and response plans for bioterrorism events, SARS and other infectious disease emergencies; address legal issues including those that affect hospital staffing, patient care and quarantine; and be periodically reviewed and updated. Additionally, Secretary Leavitt announced a series of "flu summits" to be held in every state to help local governments, health agencies, schools and businesses prepare of a possible flu pandemic. A web cast of the pandemic planning proceedings, the state and local health department checklist, the National Strategy, HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan and more information can be found online at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services December 7, 2005 issue of the Pandemic Influenza Update is attached to this briefing. The update includes information on key facts and answers to frequently asked questions related to avian influenza.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on December 6, 2005, sponsored a call on avian influenza. Scott Dowell, MD, MPH of the Office of Global Health at the CDC provided information on the current status of avian influenza, vaccine research, treatment options and geographic distribution. If you missed COCA Conference Call on avian influenza, you can listen to the instant replay from December 6th-20th at the following number: (800) 819-5743. Dr. Dowell's PowerPoint presentation is available on the COCA website: <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 December 7, 2005 were 135 cases and 69 deaths.
- 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/>.

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

- The latest information regarding avian influenza can be found online at the following sites:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resources for Pandemic Flu  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic.htm> <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/research.htm>
  - <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.cdc.gov/flu/avian/professional/>  
Information for health professionals
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/healthprofessional.htm>  
In-depth clinical information
  - <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.

#### Pandemic Influenza - Stockpiling of Disposable Ventilators: **New**

- Based on guidance found in Supplement 3, Healthcare Planning, of the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, the YNH CoE and their southern tier hospital colleagues have begun to discuss the stockpiling of disposable ventilators as part of each hospital's pandemic flu planning. In order to ensure consistent statewide respiratory care capacity, specific recommendations regarding type and model of disposable ventilator, numbers to be purchased, considerations for pediatric patients and potential revisions to infection control practices based on use of these disposable ventilators are being sought from the statewide Respiratory Care Directors group and/or the state respiratory care association. Further information will be shared as it becomes available. For more information, please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org)

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

- During the week ending November 26, 2005, influenza activity occurred at a low level in the United States. Twenty-three states, New York City, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity, and 27 states reported no influenza activity. Further information 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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**Emergency Credentialing Program: Updated**

- During a disaster, each hospital had a designated individual within the Incident Command System structure who is responsible for the assessment of personnel surge capacity and the assignment of disaster privileges. The State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP) supports personnel surge capacity assessments and emergency management response objectives by recruiting and pre-qualifying healthcare providers in advance of a large-scale disaster or public health emergency. Please ensure that individuals with this Incident Command role are familiar with this program. To date, 3,670 volunteers representing all disciplines and all hospitals throughout the state are enrolled in the ECP. 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).

**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.

**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	1/12/05	8:30 A.M.	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

**UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN	1/11/06	1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.	TO REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT VISIT <a href="http://www.hsrnet.net/AHRQ/CARE4KIDS">HTTP://WWW.HSRNET.NET/AHRQ/CARE4KIDS</a>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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