

## Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

### *Emergency Preparedness Briefing*

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**ELEVATED**

Volume 3, Issue 49

Threat Level

December 16, 2005

#### Pandemic Influenza: **New**

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided key facts and answers to frequently asked questions related to avian influenza. Please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/general/faq.html> for more information.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of December 14, 2005 were 138 cases and 71 deaths.
- In the event of pandemic influenza, businesses will play a key role in protecting employees' health and safety as well as limiting the negative impact to the economy and society. Planning for pandemic influenza is critical. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a checklist for large businesses. It identifies important, specific activities large businesses can do to prepare, many of which will also help in other emergencies. Further information can be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov> and <http://www.cdc.gov/business>
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a state and local pandemic influenza planning checklist. Further information can be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov> and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/pdf/PandemicFluChecklist.pdf>
- Guidelines and recommendations for airline cleaning crews, maintenance crew, and baggage/package and cargo handlers for airlines returning from areas affected by avian influenza A (H5N1) have been developed by The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Standard and droplet precautions are appropriate, and hand hygiene remain the focus of infection control. The CDC has not recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1 viruses. For further information please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian\\_flu\\_airlines\\_cleaning\\_update\\_120505.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_airlines_cleaning_update_120505.htm)
- 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>.

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

- The official U.S. government web site for information on pandemic flu and avian influenza is <http://pandemicflu.gov/>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resources for Pandemic Flu <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic.htm>
- The latest information regarding avian influenza research can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/research.htm>

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

- Based on guidance found in Supplement 3, Healthcare Planning, of the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, the delivery network hospitals 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 of December 3, 2005, influenza activity occurred at a low level in the United States. Twenty-nine states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. Further information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.

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### Clinician Video on Treating Children Exposed to Chemicals used in Bioterrorist Attacks: **New**

- On December 6, 2005, the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a twenty-seven minute video on *The Decontamination of Children: Preparedness and Response for Hospital Emergency Departments*. It provides training for emergency responders and hospital emergency department staff regarding decontamination to children after being exposed to hazardous chemicals during a bioterrorist attack or other disaster. This video provides a step-by-step demonstration of the decontamination process in real time and trains clinicians about the nuances of treating infants and children, who require special attention during decontamination procedures. A short clip from "The Decontamination of Children" can be found online at <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/decontam.htm>. A free, single copy of the video—available in DVD or VHS format—may be ordered by calling 1-800-358-9295 or by sending an E-mail to [ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov](mailto:ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov).

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

- A large-scale disaster will not only stretch the facility, equipment and financial resources of a hospital, but will greatly strain their human resources as well. The State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP) supports personnel surge capacity during an emergency management response. Each hospital should have a designated individual within the Incident Command System structure who is responsible for the assessment of personnel capacity and is familiar with the ECP program. 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 management. To date, 3,670 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. Professionals interest 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 YNHHS-CoE 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/>.
- Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103) on-line course is being created in different formats to better meet the varied needs of different healthcare organizations. A narrated CD-ROM conducive to instructor-led workshops, such as new employee orientation at hospitals will be provided as well as a VHS (video) version will also be available. To obtain a copy of these resources as they become available, please contact Mark Schneider [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.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, 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/CARE 4KIDS</a>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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