

## 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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#### The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Briefing – New Format Coming! **New**

- The Yale New Haven Health System Emergency Preparedness Briefing is getting a new updated look in early 2006. Stay tuned for further details.

#### Avian Flu Symposium: **New**

- The University of Maryland School of Law and the Center for Health and Homeland Security will host “Avian Flu: What Can We Do?” on Friday, January 13, 2006. The symposium will bring together expert researchers, academics, public health officials and others to give their assessment of critical issues pertaining to a threatened pandemic and to recommend realistic and practical countermeasures and strategies that could effectively be deployed to fight a pandemic. For more information, visit: <http://www.umaryland.edu/healthsecurity>

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

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of December 23, 2005 was 141 cases and 73 deaths.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has published a timeline of the avian flu. To read about the first human infection to the current wave, please visit [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/Timeline\\_28\\_10a.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/Timeline_28_10a.pdf)
- 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>
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has published an influenza pandemic preparedness checklist that reflects international expert opinions. To read this document, please visit <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/FluCheck6web.pdf>
- 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. 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>

#### Secretary Michael Chertoff Urges Americans to Make Emergency Preparedness Their New Year's Resolution: **New**

- On December 31, 2005, nearly half of all adults in this country will make at least one New Year's resolution. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security encourages Americans to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep, preparing for emergencies. “As 2006 approaches, we continue to look for innovative ways to empower families and businesses to prepare for emergencies,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “In this time when Americans are making resolutions to better their lives, the message of preparedness is truly fitting. Making an emergency plan for their home or business is just one of the simple steps individuals can take to help ensure that they are as prepared as possible if an emergency occurs.” To assist individuals with developing personal and family preparedness plans, Yale New Haven Health System developed the “Peace of Mind” tool now also available in Spanish. For information on developing a customized version for your facility, contact Elaine Forte at [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org) or (203) 688- 3991.

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

- Based on guidance found in Supplement 3, Healthcare Planning, of the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, The Yale New Haven Health System delivery network hospitals and their southern tier hospital colleagues have begun to discuss the stockpiling of portable and 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 ventilators, numbers to be purchased, considerations for pediatric patients and potential revisions to infection control practices based on use of these types of ventilators are being sought from the statewide Respiratory Care Directors group and will be discussed at their January 5th meeting. Further information will be shared as it becomes available. For any questions, please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org).

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**Flu Season: New**

- With the confirmation of four cases of influenza by the State Public Health Laboratory, the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) advised on December 29, 2005 that the influenza season has officially begun in Connecticut. Governor Rell urged Connecticut residents who are at high risk due to complications of the flu, speak with their health care providers and consider receiving a flu shot. Limited supplies of the influenza vaccine are still available in Connecticut. Healthcare providers may call the Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7929 to get information on obtaining the influenza vaccine. Please see the attached PDF for a full version of this press release.
- During the week of December 23, 2005, Utah reported widespread influenza activity and Arizona, California, Kansas, New Mexico, and Oregon reported regional influenza activity. Two states (Idaho and Nebraska) reported local influenza activity. Thirty-three states (Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), New York City and the District of Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity. Nine states reported no influenza activity. For more information please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.
- The Center for Disease Control has published recommendations for infection control measures for preventing and controlling influenza transmission in long-term health facilities. To view the recommendations please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/longtermcare.htm>

**License Extended for the Smallpox Vaccine: Updated**

- Wyeth received approval for BLA Supplement 101106/5069 for extension of Smallpox Vaccine Dryvax® kits through February, 2006. Please also note that the storage period of the vaccine after reconstitution with diluent continues to be 90 days. For specific package lot numbers, please visit: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/pdf/wyethletter3Onov05.pdf>

**Training and 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. To obtain a copy of these resources as they become available, please contact Mark Schneider [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Children: New**

- The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality will host a Web conference on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST. The conference will explore some of the key issues surrounding preparedness planning for the care of children, and highlight innovative research, tools and models that can be used in developing effective preparedness strategies for addressing the unique needs of children. For more information, visit: <http://www.hsrnet.net/ahrq/care4kids>.

**Planning for the Needs of Special Populations-Free Broadcast: Updated**

- The Berkeley Center for Infectious Disease Preparedness and the University of Albany Center for Public Health Preparedness are pleased to present a special satellite broadcast inspired by Hurricane Katrina. "Planning for the Needs of Special Populations" January 12, 2006 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. This program is FREE. To get more information or to register, please visit <http://www.ualbanycphp.org> or call (518) 486-7921

**Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP): New**

- In the next week, over 170 Clinical Laboratory professionals who have received specialized training to support statewide laboratory surge capacity will receive a letter encouraging them to enroll in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP). The purpose of the 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, 3,985 volunteers representing all disciplines and all hospitals throughout the state are enrolled in the Program. Self-assessment tools have been 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/capacitybuildi ng.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).

**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 PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT VISIT <a href="http://www.hsrnet.net/AHRO/CARE4KIDS">HTTP://WWW.HSRNET.NET/AHRO/CARE4KIDS</a>
PLANNING FOR THE NEEDS OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS	1/12/06	10:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AND 4:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. EST	TO REGISTRAR CALL (518) 486-7921 OR VISIT <a href="http://www.ualbanycphp.org">HTTP://WWW.UALBANYCPHP.ORG</a>
AVIAN FLU SYMPOSIUM	1/13/06	8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.	TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT VISIT <a href="http://www.umaryland.edu/healthsecurity">HTTP://WWW.UMARYLAND.EDU/HEALTHSECURITY</a>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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