

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

One Church Street, 5th Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · center@ynhh.org

ELEVATED

Volume 4, Issue 1

Threat Level

January 6, 2006

Flu Season: **New**

- During the week of December 30, 2005, Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Utah reported widespread influenza activity, and Kansas, Nevada, Oregon, and Texas reported regional influenza activity. Five states (Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, Ohio, and Washington) reported local influenza activity. Thirty-one states (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. For more information please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.
- The Center for Disease Control has produced a fact sheet discussing influenza symptoms, protection, and guidelines for what to do if you get sick. To read further please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms.htm>
- 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. To view this release, please visit <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/FIRSTFLU2005FINAL.pdf>
- 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>

Pandemic Influenza: **New**

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of December 30, 2005 was 142 cases and 74 deaths.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a specific Outbreak Notice for travel during the Lunar New Year to countries reporting human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses. Because of increased travel to and from countries reporting human infection with H5N1 during the Lunar New Year, and increased preparation and consumption of poultry for the holiday, this notice provides information to travelers about where H5N1 outbreaks are occurring, health measures to take before travel, and what to do if illness occurs during or after travel. CDC issues various [levels of notification](#) about disease outbreaks. Currently, CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) do not recommend restrictions for travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1. To read more, please visit http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_lunar_newyear_2006.htm
- The Center for Disease Control has published a year end summary of the Avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. Countries affected, types of transmission and travel are discussed in this report. To read this report in full please visit http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_influenza_se_asia_2005.htm

Avian Flu Symposium: **Updated**

- 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>

Secretary Leavitt to Convene In-State Pandemic Planning Summits: **New**

- At the direction of President Bush, Secretary Mike Leavitt, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, convened senior state and local officials from across the country to establish an integrated federal-state influenza-pandemic planning process on December 5, 2005. Participants were asked to begin preparing for a series of in-state pandemic planning summits to be held in each state for the purpose of informing and involving public health, emergency response, political, economic and community leadership in the planning process. More information on the Connecticut summit anticipated for February will be shared as it is made available from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 License Extended for the Smallpox Vaccine
- 2 Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP)
- 2 Training and Education
- 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Children
- 2 Planning Health Emergency Preparedness for Children
- 3 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 3 Upcoming Training & Education

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/wyethletter30nov05.pdf>

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

- 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/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

Training and Education: **Updated**

- Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital Based First Receivers (EM 120) 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.

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

- 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

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by fax to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to: 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 HTTP://WWW.HSRNET.NET/AHRO/CARE4KIDS
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 HTTP://WWW.UALBANYCPHP.ORG
AVIAN FLU SYMPOSIUM	1/13/06	8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.	TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT VISIT HTTP://WWW.UMARYLAND.EDU/HEALTHSECURITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG
LOUISE-MARIE DEMBRY, MD	OEP ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688 -4634	LOUISE-MARIE.DEMBRY@YNHH.ORG
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG
MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688 -2563	MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG