

# THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

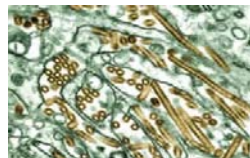
## Pandemic Influenza - Stockpiling of Disposable Ventilators: **Updated**

In order to ensure a consistent approach, the Connecticut Respiratory Care Directors group has developed recommendations to guide hospital planning related to the development of statewide respiratory care capacity for a pandemic influenza event. This group will work with representatives from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and The Hospital Centers of Excellence to develop and implement a survey of existing ventilator capacity and related issues among all of Connecticut's acute care hospitals. The findings will be used to focus respiratory care planning efforts and recommendations on areas with the greatest demonstrated need. For more information, please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org).

## HHS announces plan to transform Public Health Service Corps: **New**

The Department of Health and Human Services today announced an initiative to increase the size of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and improve its ability to respond quickly to urgent public health needs. The Corps responds to disasters and provides day-to-day health care for underserved populations. HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said the Corps will increase its ranks, streamline its assignment and deployment process, and increase its ability to recruit the best and brightest to defend the nation's public health. John Agwunobi, M.D., was sworn in today as assistant secretary for health and an admiral in the Corps. The Corps' highest ranking officer, Agwunobi will oversee the organization and serve as the secretary's primary advisor on matters involving the nation's public health. To read about this initiative further, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060118.html>.

## Pandemic Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of January 14, 2006 was 148 cases and 79 deaths.

- The Centers for Disease Control has published a pandemic flu planning guide and checklist for individuals and families. This checklist will guide specific activities such as infection control and developing flu relief stockpiles that families should consider in the event of a pandemic. To view this checklist, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/InformationSheet.pdf>
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a global influenza preparedness plan, which defines the phases of a pandemic flu outbreak outlines the role of WHO and makes recommendations for national measures before and during a pandemic. Currently, the Avian Flu is at Phase 3. To read about the phases further, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/phases.htm>.
- The Centers for Disease Control has *not* recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1. For questions regarding travel within areas with reports of outbreaks of H5N1 among poultry or of human H5N1 please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian\\_flu\\_ah5n1\\_010606\\_turkey.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_ah5n1_010606_turkey.htm). In addition, a Travelers' Health Automated Information Line is available for questions. Please call **877-FYI-TRIP** toll free where you can find information about ordering the Yellow Book and International Certificates of Vaccination and recorded messages on travel-related health topics.

## Secretary Michael Leavitt will Hold Local Pandemic Summit: **New**

Invitations to a Statewide Pandemic Summit being held by HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt have been sent to a variety of local and state emergency response organizations, including the chief executive officers at each acute care hospital. The summit will be held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on February 2 in the afternoon. Mary Duley will forward information to the members of the northern and southern tier emergency and terrorism preparedness committees shortly.

## Translation of Public Health Emergency Response Guide for State, Local, and Tribal Public Health Directors: **New**

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services (EEHS), Environmental Public Health Readiness Branch (EPRB) has developed an all-hazards public health emergency response guide for state and local public health professionals. This document provides immediate access to guidance and information necessary during a response to an emergency or disaster. This information is available in both Spanish and English and includes templates for listing key agency personnel contact information, contact information for other response partners and documentation of public health leadership assignments. A guide can be downloaded at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/responseguide.asp>

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

Nearly one third of the self assessment tools mailed to non-physician professionals who expressed interest in participating as a volunteer in the Emergency Credentialing Program have already been returned for review and validation by the volunteer's employing hospital. Validated self assessments will be included in the statewide ECP database which will be made available to participating hospitals for their use during a declared disaster or public health emergency. In addition, credentialed volunteers enrolled in the ECP could become an important part of Connecticut's statewide response to the heightened concern about pandemic influenza. Professionals interested in the program can access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) website. 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. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated ECP contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org)

## Pediatric Disaster Assistance Toolkit (PDAT): **Updated**

A pediatric disaster assistance toolkit (PDAT) has been developed under the leadership of Carl Baum, MD, Yale School of Medicine and Jim Wiley, MD, University of Connecticut Medical School. The PDAT was developed in response to needs identified by Emergency Department Directors and Nurse Managers. It includes a treatment guide, a triage guide, a transportation algorithm and aftercare instructions among other components. The PDATs are in production and a copy will be distributed in each Connecticut hospital once they are available. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider, OEP Education and Training Supervisor at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

## Flu Season: **New**

- On January 14, 2006 the Centers for Disease Control sent a health advisory against the use of Amantadine and Rimantadine for the treatment or prophylaxis of influenza in the United States during the 2005-06 Influenza season. Recent evidence indicates that a high proportion of currently circulating Influenza A viruses in this country are resistant to these medications. To read the full health advisory, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/han011406.htm>.
- During the week of January 7, 2006, seven states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Texas) reported widespread influenza activity. Eleven states (Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) reported regional influenza activity. Nine states (Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Virginia) reported local influenza activity. Twenty-one states (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin), New York City, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. For more information please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.



## Training and Education: **New**

- Yale New Haven Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health are collaborating on an approach for hospital personnel to complete the FEMA sponsored Incident Command Systems (ICS) and Incident Management System (IMS) training programs. Completion of these courses, or their equivalent by targeted personnel, is a requirement of organization compliance with the National Incident Management System. These programs include IS 100, IS 200 and IS 700. For more information, please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.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).
- 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/>
- Mental Health for Non-Mental Health Professionals (EM 230) is currently under development on the Yale New Haven Health System learning management system and is expected to be available Spring of 2006. This course will train health professionals in the recognition, treatment and referral of patients exhibiting behavioral health consequences related to public health emergencies and will incorporate brief video vignettes to enhance the learner experience. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

### What do you think of the new format?

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)  
[www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency)

## Upcoming Meetings and Events



DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
2.9.06	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Yale New Haven Health System-wide Drill	Assigned Locations
2.15.06	8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Southern Tier Meeting	Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA)

## Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
2.7.06	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST	CDC COCA Conference Call – Quarantine <a href="http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp">http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp</a>	Dial-in Number: (888) 373-3590 Pass Code: Quarantine

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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