

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

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

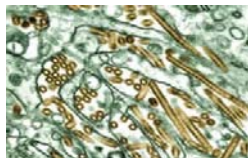


Governor M. Jodi Rell announced that federal Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt will join Connecticut health leaders for a summit meeting on pandemic influenza planning and response on

February 2, 2006. "The goal of the summit is to raise awareness among state, local and private sector leaders about the importance of planning now for a possible influenza pandemic," Governor Rell said. "Federal and state officials will present strategies to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an influenza pandemic." Secretary Leavitt will visit Connecticut as part of a national tour of states, as the federal government prepares for a potential influenza pandemic.

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. Mary Duley, from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, forwarded information to the members of the northern and southern tier emergency and terrorism preparedness committees on January 24, 2006. Preregistration at <https://ct.train.org/DesktopModules/eLearning/CourseDetails/CourseDetailsForm.aspx?tabid=62&CourseID=1004684> is requested by Monday, January 30, 2006.

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 (CDC) has released an updated question and answer sheet regarding information about Avian Influenza. Some discussion threads include information about the spread of avian influenza, symptoms and eating poultry are highlighted in this brief. To view this article please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/qa.htm>.
- 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>.

Public Health Activities in Louisiana -

1 to 2 Months after Hurricane Katrina: **New**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has collected a series of reports discussing public health response to Hurricane Katrina one to two months after the storm. Special reports detailing carbon monoxide poisoning, infectious disease and dermatologic conditions in evacuees and rescue workers, injury and illness surveillance in hospitals and acute-care facilities and other topics are highlighted. This is the first of two special issues. Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5502a1.htm> or <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5502a4.htm> to view these reports.

Quarantine Conference Call - February 7, 2006:

New

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will host a conference call on February 7, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Danitza Tomianovic, MPH, Quarantine Public Health Officer will address the subject of quarantine. If you would like to join this call, please call the toll-free dial-in number at 888-373-3590, passcode quarantine). Slides for this presentation are available at the following link: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp>.

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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, with representatives from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Hospital Centers of Excellence, have developed a survey to identify existing ventilator capacity and related issues among all of Connecticut's acute care hospitals. The survey is expected to be distributed shortly. 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.

Flu Season: New

During the week of January 14, 2006, eight states (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Texas, and Wyoming) reported widespread influenza activity. Fourteen states (Alaska, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia) and New York City reported regional influenza activity. Eleven states (Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington, and Wisconsin) reported local influenza activity. Sixteen states (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity.

Flu Season (Continued): New



In July of 2005, The Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published a set of recommendations respecting the prevention and control of influenza (MMWR, 54 (R08); 1-40). The ACIP recommended that beginning in October of each year, health care facilities should offer influenza vaccinations to all workers, including night and weekend staff.

Particular emphasis should be placed on providing vaccinations to persons who care for members of groups at high risk for complications. Efforts should be made to educate health care workers regarding the benefits of vaccination and the potential health consequences of influenza illness for themselves, their family members, and their patients. All health-care workers should be provided convenient access to influenza vaccine at the work site, free of charge, as part of employee health programs.

The Joint Commission (JACHO) believes that integrating the recommendations into the Infection Control standards and the improving organization performance standards would increase patient safety and reduce the number and seriousness of influenza complications among at risk populations. JACHO is interested in receiving feedback about whether influenza vaccination should be made mandatory among care-givers in various health care settings, what categories of individuals should be vaccinated, whether the option to decline vaccination for legitimate or other reasons should be provided, and whether and how organizations can track declination rates. To respond, please visit http://www.jcaho.org/accredited+organizations/critical+access+hospitals/standards/field+reviews/influenza_immunization_fr.htm

- This is the time of year when vaccine manufacturers and distributors start to take orders for next year. Sanofi Pasteur, the largest manufacturer of influenza vaccine in the U.S. recently announced that they will begin pre-booking their inactivated influenza vaccine, Fluzone™, for the 2006-2007 influenza season as of noon on January 31, 2006. Sanofi Pasteur representatives have informed that this booking of Fluzone™ will be on a "first come, first serve" basis; thus providers should reserve their doses as early as possible. <http://www.sanofipasteur.com/sanofi-pasteur/front/templates/affich.jsp?codeRubrique=4&lang=EN>
- 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>.

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 please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.

- As part of compliance with the National Incident Management System, organizations are required to document completion of FEMA sponsored incident management training, or its equivalent, by all staff. In order to facilitate compliance by healthcare organizations, the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNHH-CEPDR) is working on incorporating the FEMA training objectives into Emergency Management (EM 103). Additional objectives targeted to staff at the supervisory level and above are being incorporated into EM 140, Incident Command Systems for Healthcare. For more information, please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.
- **A narrated version of Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103)** for hospital employees will be available on February 1, 2006. The CD-ROM based version of EM 103 is playable on most computers and can be used to complement instructor-led training events, such as workshops or new hire orientation. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.
- **Radiation Basics for Health Care Workers (EM 110)** is targeted for release on the Yale New Haven Health System learning management system in the Spring of 2006. Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to identify experts at a health care facility who can provide information and assistance during radiation and nuclear emergencies and disasters, identify steps to ensure personal health and safety from harmful radiation and identify ways to assist in the response to a radiation emergency including during decontamination. Please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org for more information.
- **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.
- **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/>

Questions or Comments

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by fax to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to center@ynhh.org 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	Dial-in Number: (888) 373-3590 Pass Code: Quarantine To download slides: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp

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