

# THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Volume 4, Issue 12 | March 24, 2006

ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

## Pandemic Influenza: **New**

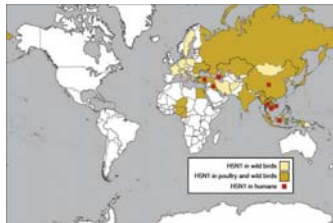
- The Department of Health and Human Services issued a *Pandemic Planning Update* on March 13, 2006, outlining how the agency is using \$3.3 billion in federal funding to achieve its flu pandemic planning objectives. Among other actions, HHS next month plans to issue a request for proposals to industry to increase vaccine capacity. It also has earmarked \$200 million to develop new flu antiviral medications and \$162 million to procure 6,000 ventilators, 50 million surgical masks, 50 million N95 respirators and other essential medical supplies. Within the next 12 months, the agency plans to invite the states to participate in a nationwide pandemic planning exercise. At the same time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working to strengthen local laboratory capacity, improve reporting systems and quickly implement a program that collects real-time data from hospitals and other clinical-data sources. To read this *Pandemic Planning Update* in full, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/panflu20060313.pdf>
- Communications and outreach are essential to preparedness. In an effort to aid pandemic influenza preparations, the CDC has developed the following pandemic checklists: state and local, individual and families, business, schools (K-12), faith-based and community organizations, medical offices and clinics, home and health services. Upcoming checklists include emergency medical services, preschool, colleges and universities, long-term care, travel industry and transportation. To view these checklists, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/checklists.html>.

## Overview of CDC Operations and National Disasters –

### March 28, 2006 Call: **Updated**

On March 28, 2006 the CDC will conduct a conference call discussing CDC Operations and National Disasters. The conference call agenda includes defining and discussing the National Response Plan, describing CDC activation during an emergency and describing CDC's disaster epidemiological activities during an emergency. The call is scheduled from 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST. To join this call, please call (800) 988-9470, passcode: disasters, or visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp> for more information.

## Pandemic Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of March 21, 2006 was 184 cases and 103 deaths.

**Click on map for an enlarged view.**  
Map courtesy of <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

- This week, several more countries have been added to the list of poultry or wild birds that have the H5N1 or H5 virus. These countries include:  
**Africa:** Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria  
**East Asia & the Pacific:** Cambodia, China, Hong Kong (SARPRC), Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand and Vietnam  
**Europe & Eurasia:** Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina (H5), Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark (H5), France, Georgia (H5), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro (H5), Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine  
**Near East:** Egypt, Iraq (H5), Iran and Israel  
**South Asia:** Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan and Pakistan (H5)  
To read a current update, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/current.htm>.
- Yale New Haven Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response (YNHHS-CoE) has developed a Pandemic Influenza Hospital Preparedness Checklist modified from the HHS Pandemic Flu Plan, Supplement 3. The checklist is designed to guide hospital pandemic influenza planning by identifying key elements of a comprehensive and effective pandemic influenza plan. It also can serve as a way to evaluate the current status of pandemic influenza preparedness. Hospitals are strongly encouraged to complete the checklist and review it at emergency management committee meetings. To download a word document, please visit [http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/Pandemic\\_flu\\_hospital\\_checklist\\_1.doc](http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/Pandemic_flu_hospital_checklist_1.doc). To download the PDF document, please visit [http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/Pandemic\\_flu\\_hospital\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/Pandemic_flu_hospital_checklist.pdf). For comments, please contact Richard Kleindienst, Sr. at (203) 688-3912 or [richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org](mailto:richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org).
- CDC officials on March 23, 2006 said hospitals should “get ready now” for a possible outbreak of the avian flu, the Associated Press reports. Many hospitals are “still in the planning stages” for how to respond to a major pandemic, while others have developed comprehensive plans for handling an outbreak. To read this article in full, please visit [http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/CDC\\_HospitalsPrepareforAvianOutbreak.pdf](http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/CDC_HospitalsPrepareforAvianOutbreak.pdf)
- Pandemicflu.gov has put together a state by state summary of state pandemic plans, summit materials, formal agreements and other pandemic planning information. To view, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab2.html>.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 Flu Season

2 New Haven School District Exercise

3 Emergency Credentialing Program

3 Training and Education

4 Upcoming Meetings and Events

4 Upcoming Training and Education

## Pandemic Influenza (Continued): **New**



HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced on March 22, 2006 additional purchases of antiviral drugs that could be used in the event of a potential influenza pandemic. The department has ordered 2.2 million more treatment courses of antiviral drug zanamivir (Relenza®) from GlaxoSmithKline and 3.8 million more treatment courses of oseltamivir phosphate (Tamiflu®) from Roche. With these purchases, the Strategic National Stockpile will have a total of 26 million treatment courses of antiviral drugs for distribution to the states when an influenza pandemic is deemed to be imminent."

"Our ultimate goal is to stockpile sufficient quantities of antiviral drugs to treat 25 percent of the U.S. population," Secretary Leavitt said. "We also hope these purchases will stimulate development of expanded domestic production capacity in order to accommodate subsequent needs through normal commercial transactions." To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060322.html>.

## Updates to the State of Connecticut Consequence

### Management Plan: **New**

The State of Connecticut has updated its Consequence Management Plan for deliberately caused incidents involving chemical agents. Updates include changes in terminology to bring the document in line with terminology of the new National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System. To read this release in full please visit <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?Q=287948&A=1928>.

### Questions or Comments

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.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency)

## Flu Season: **New**



During the week of March 11, 2006, twenty-five states (Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin) reported widespread influenza activity. Sixteen states (Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Wyoming) reported regional influenza activity. Three states (California, Nevada, and Oregon), New York City, and the District of Columbia reported local influenza activity. Six states (Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington) and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. To read this update in full, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

- The *CDC Influenza Chemoprophylaxis and Treatment Guidelines 2005-06* are available as a PDA file for viewing on a Palm OS device, with bookmarks and hyperlinks to facilitate browsing. To download the PDA files, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/pda/>.
- FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) met in Bethesda, Maryland, on February 17, 2006, to select the influenza virus strains for the composition of the influenza vaccine for use in the 2006-07 U.S. influenza season. During this meeting, the advisory panel reviewed and evaluated the surveillance data related to epidemiology and antigenic characteristics, serological responses to 2005/2006 vaccines and the availability of candidate strains and reagents.

The panel recommended that vaccines to be used in the 2006-07 season in the U.S. contain an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like virus (A/Wisconsin/67/2005 and A/Hiroshima/52/2005 strains) and a B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus (B/Malaysia/2506/2004 and B/Ohio/1/2005 strains). To read the recommendations in full, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/composition0607.htm>.

## New Haven School District Full Scale Exercise – March 21, 2006: **New**



On March 21, 2006 The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response participated as evaluators during the full scale exercise with the New Haven School District at the Sound School in New Haven. The New Haven School District has developed policies and procedures to respond to any incident of violence and has determined the need to conduct exercises testing these protocols. The purpose was to exercise the school district and school staff on integration into the unified command system, management of information released and staff and student accountability during an all-hazards event. The exercise provided excellent feedback and insight for future emergency preparations. For more information, please contact Scott Dilley, Exercise and Design Specialist at (203) 688-2665 or [scott.dilley@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.dilley@ynhh.org).

## Anthrax: **New**

- The government's \$1 billion effort to develop a new anthrax vaccine has run into difficulty, with the company in charge of the project reporting failure in a major human test and falling at least a year behind schedule. Officers at VaxGen, Inc. of Brisbane, California, said in interviews that they believe they have isolated the problem with their vaccine and are well on their way to fixing it. But they acknowledged that they have no hope of meeting a deadline to deliver 25 million doses of the vaccine into a national stockpile by November and will default on their contract with the government unless it grants an extension they have requested. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/16/AR2006031602285.html?referrer=emailarticle>.
- In a recent study, the duration of post exposure antibiotic prophylaxis against inhalational anthrax was tested. This study discusses the CDC recommendation for 60 days of post exposure antibiotic prophylaxis in unvaccinated persons after exposure to anthrax spores versus a shorter period. To read this study in full, please visit <http://www.upmc-cbn.org/dmz/index.html?wheretto=%2F>.

## Training and Education: Updated

- A narrated version of **Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103)** for hospital employees is also available. 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. This course is available on HealthStream and the YNHHS-CoE Learning Management System. An instructor guide for EM 103 is currently under development. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).
- There is still space available in the May 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> **National Disaster Life Support** course to be held in New Haven, CT. Basic Disaster Life Support is an eight-hour course that provides an in-depth overview of disasters for all healthcare and public health professionals. The Advanced Life Support course provides physicians, physician assistants, nurses and paramedics with two days of intensive training on mass casualty triage, decontamination and treatment. Individuals completing the BDLs and ADLS programs will receive CME credits and are eligible to take the instructor course, which prepares them to conduct a course at their own facility. Hospitals are encouraged to consider using some of their HRSA hospital preparedness education and training funds to send appropriate individuals to any or all of these courses. For more information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).
- YNHHS-CoE has developed a series of emergency preparedness courses and workshops specifically to prepare healthcare workers in community health centers for their roles in disaster response. These instructor-led sessions combine didactic lecture and group exercises to address topics including triage, personal protective equipment, infection control, risk communications and incident command, including objectives that ensure compliance with the National Incident Management System training requirements. These courses may be further adapted to better meet the needs of other healthcare delivery organizations such as home health agencies and skilled nursing facilities. For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or [scott.selig@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org).

## Training and Education: Updated

- **Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110)** is expected to be available in the Spring of 2006. At the end of the 30 minute course, individuals will be able to describe the harmful effects of radiation, identify steps that can ensure personal safety from harmful radiation and identify ways to assist in the response to a radiation emergency including decontamination and psychological first aid. A more advanced radiological preparedness course is under development and will be released later this year. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).
- **Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians (EM 201)** is a 50-minute course designed to prepare physicians and other clinicians for a bioterrorist event or other potential public health emergency. Now available at <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org>, EM 201 helps clinicians recognize bioterrorism agent disease syndromes, learn the precautions they should take and understand their roles in the event of a public health emergency. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@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, YNHHS-CoE is working on incorporating the FEMA training objectives into Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103), currently a requirement for all YNHHS-CoE staff and recommended by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for other healthcare organizations in Connecticut. Additional objectives targeted to staff at the supervisory level and above are being incorporated into EM 140, Incident Command Systems for Healthcare. YNHHS-CoE will develop recommendations for which hospital staff should be required to take this intermediate-level course. For more information, please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org).



## JCAHO Revises Standard for Emergency Management Drills and Exercises: Updated

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) recently revised its standards for emergency management drills and exercises to focus more on the quality of exercises rather than their frequency. Frequent and ongoing practice of emergency management protocols does build familiarity and competency with an organization's protocols and policies. However, drills and exercises should reflect realistic scenarios and be of sufficient length and complexity to challenge the organization's capacity and capability and identify its strengths and weaknesses. These standards go into effect July 1, 2006. To read this document in full, please visit [http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/JCAHO\\_DrillsandExercises.pdf](http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/JCAHO_DrillsandExercises.pdf).

## Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP): Updated

National Healthcare Volunteer Week will be celebrated from April 23 through April 29 and provides a great opportunity for hospitals participating in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program to talk about the program with their staff and encourage them to sign up as a hospital disaster volunteer. A draft press release is under development and will be shared shortly with each hospital Emergency Credentialing Program point of contact. Please consider incorporating the press release and other recruitment activities for the Emergency Credentialing Program into your Volunteer Week activities. For more information, please contact Carol Luddy, RN by phone at (203) 688-5544 or by email at [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).

## UPCOMING Meetings and Events



DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
4.13.06	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee Meeting	Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA)

## UPCOMING Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
3.28.06	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST	CDC COCA Conference Call – CDC Operations and National Disasters	Toll-Free Dial-In Number: 800-988-9470 Passcode: Disasters Or visit <a href="http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp">http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp</a>
3.31.06	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST	Satellite Broadcast: Learning from Hurricane Katrina	To participate, please visit <a href="http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/">http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/</a>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

<p><b>Christopher M. Cannon</b> Director (203) 688-3224 <a href="mailto:christopher.cannon@ynhh.org">christopher.cannon@ynhh.org</a></p>	<p><b>Elaine Forte</b> Program Development Manager (203) 688-3391 <a href="mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org">elaine.forte@ynhh.org</a></p>	<p><b>James Paturas</b> System Manager (203) 688-3496 <a href="mailto:james.paturas@ynhh.org">james.paturas@ynhh.org</a></p>	<p><b>Mark Schneider</b> Education and Training Supervisor (203) 688-2577 <a href="mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org">mark.schneider@ynhh.org</a></p>
<p><b>Louise-Marie Dembry, MD</b> Associate Medical Director (203) 688-4634 <a href="mailto:louise-marie.dembry@ynhh.org">louise-marie.dembry@ynhh.org</a></p>	<p><b>Carol Luddy, RN</b> ECP Program Coordinator (203) 688-5544 <a href="mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org">carol.luddy@ynhh.org</a></p>	<p><b>Mukesh Roy</b> Regional Planning Coordinator (203) 688-2563 <a href="mailto:mukesh.roy@ynhh.org">mukesh.roy@ynhh.org</a></p>	

One Church Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor • New Haven, CT 06510 • Tel. (203) 688-3224 • Fax (203) 688-4618  
[center@ynhh.org](mailto:center@ynhh.org) • [www.yaleneewhavenhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yaleneewhavenhealth.org/emergency)