

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

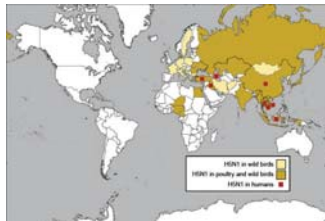
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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Pandemic Influenza: **New**

- 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. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has requested that hospitals complete the checklist and review it at emergency management committee meetings. To download a word document, please visit http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/Pandemic_flu_hospital_checklist_1.doc. To download the PDF document, please visit http://www.yalenehavenhealth.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.
- VHA, the national health alliance, surveyed 267 hospital leaders, including chief nursing officers, infection control personnel and emergency department directors, from member hospitals across the country to find out whether they are prepared for a major avian flu epidemic. Nearly two-thirds (62 percent) of the 267 respondents said their hospital has a disaster plan in place. However, when asked if they were prepared for this type of health crisis, 60 percent of respondents said, "No." To read this article in full, please visit http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/AvianFluRelease3_06.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>.
- 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 in English, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/checklists.html>. These checklists also available in Spanish. To view these documents, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/checklists.html>.

Pandemic Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of March 24, 2006 was 186 cases and 105 deaths.

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

- This week, Jordan has been added to the list of poultry or wild birds that have the H5N1 or H5 virus. Countries with poultry or wild birds that have the H5N1 and H5 virus 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, Israel and **Jordan (new)**
 - South Asia:** Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan and Pakistan (H5)To read a current update, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/current.htm>.
- On March 21, 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection had been confirmed in seven patients in Azerbaijan; five of the seven patients died. This marks the first report of laboratory-confirmed human cases of H5N1 influenza in Azerbaijan. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/latestupdate.htm>.
- 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.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/CDC_HospitalsPrepareforAvianOutbreak.pdf
- 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 for the strategic network stockpile. 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>.

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Pandemic Influenza – Tabletop Exercise: **New**

A pandemic influenza tabletop exercise package has been created to provide states and local areas with tools to assist in planning for pandemic influenza. This exercise package includes two exercises: an overview exercise and a surge capacity exercise, as well as other resources helpful in planning and conducting these exercises. The exercises are designed for use at the state or local levels, and are designed to be general enough to be useful in any area. Users are encouraged to tailor the exercises as needed to meet their needs. To view this exercise package, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/tabletopex.html>.

Reference:

1. Evans, Dr., Tim. World Health Day 2006: Working together for health. Retrieved March 30, 2006 from http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2006/tm_speech/en/index.html.

Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Collecting POD Data – April 6, 2006 Satellite Broadcast: **New**

On April 6, 2006, the CDC will conduct a satellite broadcast that will describe the how, what, and why of collecting time-study data during Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises. The broadcast is scheduled from 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST. To registrar for this call, please visit <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/MAD5/default.asp>.

CT Department of Public Health Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercise- April 19, 2006: **Updated**

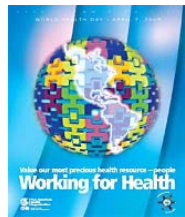
Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) and Norwalk Hospital, from the Southern Tier Hospitals, will participate in a Strategic National Stockpile Exercise (SNS) on April 19, 2006. YNHH and Norwalk Hospital will receive a portion of the SNS that will be used to treat or provide prophylaxis for hospital patients and personnel. Hospital plans should identify a procedure to evaluate, receive, store and distribute the SNS on receipt. Southern Tier Hospitals not participating in the full-scale exercise can conduct their own table-top exercise. For more information, please contact Scott Dilley, Exercise and Design Specialist at (203) 688-2665 or scott.dilley@ynhh.org.

Flu Season: **New**



During the week of March 18, 2006, twenty-three states (Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin) and New York City reported widespread influenza activity. Fourteen states (Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming) reported regional influenza activity. Eight states (California, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon and Washington) and the District of Columbia reported local influenza activity. Five states (Alaska, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico and Utah) reported sporadic influenza activity. To read this update in full, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

World Health Day: Working Together for Health – April 7, 2006: **New**



World Health Day will take place worldwide to discuss the needs of healthcare in communities. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) will host a conference in Washington, D.C. from Tuesday April 4th culminating on World Health Day on April 7th. Topics for this event include: the role of health human resources, contributions and challenges of human resources in the success of priority health programs, public health workforce, health and work conditions of the health care workers in the Americas, challenges for health human resources working in conditions of extreme poverty, expanding access through recruitment and leadership, promoting a decade of human resources in health and training the immigrant workforce in hospitals in the United States.

Kelly A. Martens, Dr.H.S., PAC, from the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, will be a guest speaker at this event. She will address the importance of developing a workforce that reflects the diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds of the populations it serves and is trained to be sensitive to the cultural differences of its communities of clients and colleagues.

On April 7th, World Health Day will be devoted to the health workforce crisis. On this day around the globe, "hundreds of organizations will host events to draw attention to the global health workforce crisis and celebrate the dignity and value of working for health."¹ For more information, please contact Dr. Martens at (203) 688-3224 or kelly.martens@ynhh.org or visit <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2006/en/index.html>.

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



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.

Dirty Bombs Crossed U.S. Borders in Test: **New**

Undercover investigators slipped radioactive material _ enough to make two small "dirty bombs" _ across U.S. borders in Texas and Washington state in a test last year of security at American points of entry. Radiation alarms at the unidentified sites detected the small amounts of cesium-137, a nuclear material used in industrial gauges. But U.S. customs agents permitted the investigators to enter the United States because they were tricked with counterfeit documents. The Bush administration said Monday that within 45 days it will give U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents the tools they need to verify such documents in the future. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/03/27/D8GK83AG6.html>.

Training and Education: **New**

- **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.
- **Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers (EM 120)** is now available on CD and on the YNHHS-CoE Learning Management System. This course meets the awareness-level training requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and is a prerequisite for an operations-level course. The course provides information on hazardous substances and the risks associated with them as well as procedures needed to ensure the safety of health care workers. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

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



Testing of the new online registration system for the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP) is complete. Launch of the enhanced system is scheduled for April 7th. To help promote the importance of the ECP and the new online registration system, each of the participating hospitals in the state will be asked to highlight the registration system during appropriate management meetings, in hospital newsletters and by including a link to the registration site on their hospital intranet and internet homepages.

The September 11th terrorist attacks, the devastation caused by record breaking storms during the 2005 hurricane season, and the threat of pandemic influenza have underscored the importance of having an emergency response plan that allows our hospitals and healthcare systems to quickly mobilize the resources they need to maintain or increase facility, equipment and personnel capacity. Although history has shown that healthcare professionals will come forward to help when the need is great, individuals who are enrolled in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals will have access to special training and state sponsored liability and workers compensation coverage.

To date, 1 out of 25 healthcare professionals licensed in Connecticut - nearly 3,500 physicians, nurses, behavioral health, laboratory medicine and diagnostic imaging technicians, pharmacists, paramedics and respiratory therapists - have enrolled in the ECP. This is a great start but we need to do more to reach our program goal of 12,000 healthcare professionals or at least 1 out of every 10 healthcare professionals licensed in Connecticut. When you encourage your colleagues to enroll in the program and volunteer some of their time to assist during a large-scale disaster or public health emergency, you will be ensuring that Connecticut's citizens - your family, friends and neighbors - have uninterrupted access to vital healthcare resources when they need it most! For more information, please contact Carol Luddy, RN by phone at (203) 688-5544 or by email at carol.luddy@ynhh.org

HHS Releases First Round of Katrina Aid to 32 States to Help With Evacuee Health Cost: **New**



HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt on March 24, 2006 released \$1.5 billion to 32 states to help offset the medical costs of caring for thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees who sought refuge after the storm. Congress set aside \$2 billion for this purpose in the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) signed into law by President Bush February 8, 2006. The balance of the funds will be used to cover future costs for the states. In turn, this funding will allow states to claim approximately \$4.5 billion in federal matching funds.

"Last year, when disaster struck, President Bush promised to make states whole for the cost of caring for their neighbors," Secretary Leavitt said. "Through the DRA, the President and Congress made good on that commitment."

Thousands of residents of hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who lost homes, jobs and the health insurance that was connected to those jobs, needed medical care in the many states to which they fled. To help states care for these evacuees, HHS' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the agency that oversees the Medicaid program, granted special, emergency Medicaid eligibility to hurricane victims in 32 states. While the bulk of the funds will go to state Medicaid programs, several states that took in the largest number of evacuees will receive special grants to reimburse providers who cared for those ineligible for Medicaid but still unable to pay for their medical care. To read this press release in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060324.html>.

Training and Education (Continued): Updated



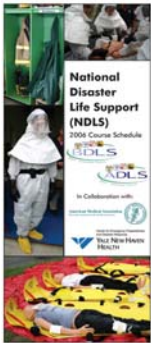
Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110) is expected to be available in the Spring of 2006. At the end of the 30 minute course, individuals will be able to describe the harmful effects of radiation, identify steps that can ensure personal safety from harmful radiation and identify ways to assist 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.

- **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.



Mental Health Aspects for Emergencies and Disasters 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 May 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.

- 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.



There is still space available in the May 18th -21st **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 Disaster 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.

- 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.

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 http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp
3.31.06	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST	Satellite Broadcast: Learning from Hurricane Katrina	To participate, please visit http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/

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