

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

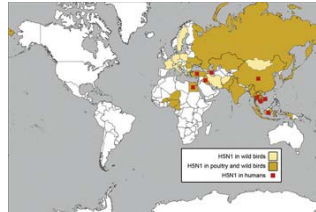
Pandemic Influenza: **New**

- Results from a clinical trial demonstrate that high doses of an experimental H5N1 avian influenza vaccine can induce immune responses in healthy adults. Approximately half of those volunteers who received an initial and a booster dose of the highest dosage of the vaccine tested in the trial developed levels of infection-fighting antibodies that current tests predict would neutralize the virus. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, funded the study, published in the current issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Preliminary results from this trial were first disclosed late last summer.

"These findings represent an important step forward in the nation's efforts to prepare for the possible emergence of a human pandemic of H5N1 avian influenza," notes NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. To read about this trial in full, please visit <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/mar2006/niaid-29.htm>.

- Although avian influenza A viruses usually do not infect humans, more than 192 confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza viruses have been reported since 1997. Most cases of avian influenza infection in humans are thought to have resulted from direct contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. However, there is still a lot to learn about how different subtypes and strains of avian influenza virus might affect humans. Because of concerns about the potential for more widespread infection in the human population, public health authorities closely monitor outbreaks of human illness associated with avian influenza. To date, human infections with avian influenza A viruses detected since 1997 have not resulted in sustained human-to-human transmission. However, because influenza A viruses have the potential to change and gain the ability to spread easily between people, monitoring for human infection and person-to-person transmission is important. To read further, please visit http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/avian-flu-humans.htm?s_cid=ccu040306_season4_r_e.

Pandemic Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of April 6, 2006 was 192 cases and 109 deaths.

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

- This week, Burkina Faso has been added to the list of countries with poultry or wild birds that have the H5N1 or H5 virus. The list also includes:

Africa: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and **Burkina Faso (new)**

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

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. 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.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/Pandemic_flu_hospital_checklist_1.doc. To download the PDF document, please visit http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.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.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/AvainFluRelease3_06.pdf

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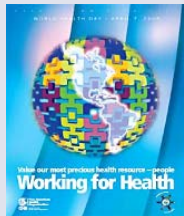
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World Health Day: Working Together for Health-April 7, 2006:

Updated



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 Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, was a guest speaker at this event. She addressed 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 was 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>.

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.

Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Field Hospital

Dedication: **New**



Photo from
<http://www.reevesdecon.com/>

On April 4, 2006, the Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Field Hospital was unveiled. This \$8.25 million mobile hospital, funded with a combination of state and federal money, can be erected and staffed within hours of an emergency situation. The 100-bed unit includes intensive care, isolation, ambulatory and triage areas and is outfitted with medical supplies and equipment that can provide immediate emergency/disaster medical care.¹ The mobile hospital has electricity, heat, air conditioning, fresh water, showers and bathrooms and can be broken down into 25-bed units for regional emergencies. The mobile hospital is staffed with a combination of personnel from the Connecticut Disaster Management Assistance Team, state government agencies and the state's 31 acute care hospitals through the state of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program.

The field hospital was named after Otilie W. Lundgren an Oxford, Connecticut resident who died after anthrax exposure in November of 2001. "Otilie Lundgren represents us all," said Dr. J. Robert Galvin, commissioner of the state Department of Public Health. "She lived a quiet life in rural Connecticut - far from where terror is supposed to strike," he said. "Her untimely death proved that terrorism knows no bounds and that our state plays an important part in responding to such incidents," he continued. "Naming this hospital in her honor allows us to forever member Mrs. Lundgren's long life and remains cognizant that her untimely death led to the state's ability to better protect its residents."

To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-ctotillie0406.artapr06.0.4376155.story>.

1. Fillo, Mary Ellen. "Otilie's Legacy May Save Lives." *The Hartford Courant* 6 Apr. 2006 <<http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-ctotillie0406.artapr06.0.4376155.story>>.

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



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

FY07 Federal Budget:

New

The fiscal year 2007 Homeland Security Budget has been released. The budget includes \$188 million for the CDC for ongoing pandemic influenza preparedness response to initiate new activities. Other Homeland Security initiatives include catastrophic disaster planning that will provide a response and recovery both during and after a catastrophic event, emergency alert system (EAS) upgrade used for catastrophic events and biodefense countermeasures that involve critically needed vaccines and medications for the strategic national stockpile. To view the entire budget, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Budget_BIB-FY2007.pdf.

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

Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) and Norwalk Hospital 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 assets from the SNS on receipt. Southern Tier Hospitals not participating in the full-scale exercise can conduct their own tabletop exercise. For more information, please contact Scott Dilley, Exercise and Design Specialist at (203) 688-2665 or scott.dilley@ynhh.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

Flu Season: New



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 29, 2006 approved the use of Relenza (zanamivir for inhalation) for prevention (prophylaxis) of influenza (flu) in adults and children 5 years of age and older. Relenza, an antiviral medication, was previously approved for the treatment of influenza A and B virus infections in adults and children. Tamiflu (oseltamivir phosphate) previously was approved for both prevention and treatment of flu. The approval of Relenza provides Americans with another option for the prevention of influenza A and B. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01341.html>.

Blast Lung Injury: New

The CDC has put together an injury fact sheet for public health professionals and clinicians on blast lung injury. Current patterns in worldwide terrorist activity have increased the potential for casualties related to explosions, yet few civilian emergency medical service providers in the United States have experience treating patients with these injuries. One direct consequence of high-explosive detonations upon the body is blast lung injury—or, BLI. It is characterized by respiratory difficulty and hypoxia. BLI can occur, although rarely, without obvious external chest injury. Persons in enclosed-space explosions or in close proximity to the explosion are at highest risk. BLI presents unique triage, diagnostic, and management challenges. To read further, please visit http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masstrauma/blastlunginjury_prehospital.asp?s_cid=ccu040306_masasc1_r_e.

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



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



Reminder, **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 at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em120.asp. 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.

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.

- **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. This course is available in a Connecticut and a national version. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

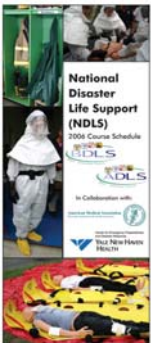


Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110) is expected to be available in the Spring of 2006. At the end of the 30 minute course, individuals will be able to describe the harmful effects of radiation, identify steps that can ensure personal safety from harmful radiation and identify ways to assist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



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 50 minute 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 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
4.21.06	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Conference on Avian Reservoirs of Human Pathogens Sponsored by the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies' Center for EcoEpidemiology	Yale School of Medicine, Harkness Auditorium 333 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT To register for the event, please contact Susan Van Ness at susan.vanness@yale.edu or call 203-785-3223. Additional information is available online at http://www.yale.edu/yibs/avian_forum.html .
4.26.06	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Communications, News, Equipment and Training Conference Call Sponsored by the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute	To participate, please visit http://www.dlnets.com/ntpi_26Apr06.htm .
5.16.06-5.18.06	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents Sponsored by the RI Emergency Management Agency	Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI To register, please visit http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/Domestic_Bio_Incidents.pdf .

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