

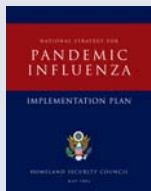
THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

The Bush Administration Releases the National Strategy Implementation Plan for Pandemic Influenza: **New**



On May 4, 2006, the Bush administration issued a national implementation plan for dealing with pandemic influenza. The plan describes more than 300 critical actions that must be taken by federal, state and local government, communities and the private sector in the areas of: international prevention and containment; transportation and bordersurveillance; human health and animal protection; law enforcement and public safety and institutional planning to protect personnel and ensure continuity of operations. The plan also proposes timelines and performance measures for various actions. At a White House press briefing, President Bush's homeland security advisor, Frances Townsend urged hospitals to immediately develop policies covering essential personnel, absenteeism and the staffing of emergency departments. Jim Bentley, AHA senior vice president for long-term policy, said, "With the release of the new Federal Implementation Plan, every hospital is encouraged to immediately review and, if necessary, update its planning for responding to pandemic flu." To download a copy of the Pandemic Implementation Plan, please visit www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/nspi_implementation.pdf.

ABC Made-For-Television Movie "Fatal Contact: Bird Flu in America": **New**

Hollywood is releasing its made-for-television movie of bird flu, which is a blur of fact and fiction that some scientists say could confuse and frighten the public.

"Fatal Contact: Bird Flu in America," an ABC made-for-television movie, airs May 9, just as scientists are to begin testing of wild birds in Alaska that could herald the arrival of bird flu in North America. Scientists fear the bird flu virus could evolve so it could be passed from human to human, sparking a global pandemic.

Hospitals, local health departments and other healthcare organizations are encouraged to be prepared to address questions that may be presented by local media and the general public. To read more about this upcoming made-for-television movie, please visit <http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory?id=1902688&page=1>.

Pandemic Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of May 5, 2006 was 206 cases and 114 deaths.

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

- Ivory Coast has been added to the list of countries with poultry or wild birds that have the H5N1 or H5 virus as of April 21, 2006. The list also includes:

Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and **Ivory Coast - New**

East Asia & the Pacific: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong (SARPRC), Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand and Vietnam

South Asia: Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan and Pakistan (H5)

Near East: Egypt, Iraq (H5), Iran, Israel and Jordan

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, United Kingdom and Ukraine

To read a current update, please visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/current.htm>.

- An Institute of Medicine panel, on April 27, 2006, issued a report concluding that in the event of a flu pandemic, disposable face masks should be considered "the very last in a series of activities" to curb the spread of the virus, the *Washington Post* reports. The 12-member panel says thicker face masks known as N95 respirators offer some protection from the virus when worn effectively. However, the experts warn that there is "no safe way to decontaminate a disposable face mask so it can be reused" and that "even the best mask 'will do little to protect a person who uses it incorrectly.'" To read further, please visit http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/Caution_in_use_of_facil_masks.pdf.
- The Department of State has established a new Action Group to coordinate United States preparedness and response to avian influenza and the threat of a global human influenza pandemic. The Action Group reports to Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, designated by the Secretary as the State Department's interagency coordinator on avian and pandemic influenza. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/65770.htm>.
- With growing concern about the spread of avian influenza, the CDC has updated their "Questions and Answers About Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus" with regards to infection of animals including dogs and cats. For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/qa.htm>.

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Pandemic Influenza: Updated

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has sent out the Pandemic Influenza Hospital Preparedness Checklist modified from the HHS Pandemic Flu Plan, Supplement 3 by the Office of Emergency Preparedness. 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 e-mail this back to Mary Duley at mary.duley@po.state.ct.us as soon as possible. To download this 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.

Mild form of Avian Flu Found in a Bird in New Jersey: New

Authorities have discovered a mild form of avian influenza at a live bird market in New Jersey on May 1, 2006, but it is not the deadly H5N1 strain governments around the world are trying to contain, the state's agriculture department said.

"The strain was found in a live bird market in Camden County. None of the birds in the market died from this virus, which is an indicator that the virus was low pathogenic and not harmful to humans," said a statement by New Jersey's Agriculture Secretary Charles Kuperus which was posted on Friday. To read more, please visit <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1909566>.

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.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency

HHS Awards Contracts Totaling More Than \$1 Billion To Develop Cell-Based Influenza Vaccine: New

As part of the President's plan to prepare for a pandemic, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt on May 4, 2006 awarded more than \$1 billion to accelerate development and production of new technologies for influenza vaccines within the U.S. GlaxoSmithKline, MedImmune, Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics, DynPort Vaccine and Solvay Pharmaceuticals were awarded contracts to support the advanced development of cell-based production technologies for influenza vaccines and will help to modernize and strengthen the nation's influenza vaccine production by creating an alternative to producing influenza vaccines in eggs. These funds are part of \$3.3 billion proposed by the President and appropriated by Congress to HHS for fiscal year 2006 to help the nation prepare for a pandemic.

"We're taking a step closer to preparedness by investing more than \$1 billion to develop vaccines more quickly and to produce them here in the United States," Secretary Leavitt said. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060504.html>.

FluMist Nasal Spray is More Effective than the Flu Shot in Children Under the Age of Five: New



Photo Credit: MedImmune

A study released on May 1, 2006 at a child-health meeting finds that MedImmune's nasal spray flu vaccine provides infants and preschoolers with "significantly more protection" from the flu than traditional flu shots, the Associated Press reports. For the study, researchers enrolled 8,000 children ages six months to five years during the 2004 flu season to receive both a FluMist nasal spray and a shot, only one of which contained a real flu vaccine. The researchers found that FluMist was 55% more effective than the flu shot, with only 3.9% of children who received FluMist developing the flu, compared with 8.6% of children who received flu shots. To read this study further, please visit <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/links/Flumist.pdf>.

Laboratory Testing for Avian Influenza A/H5 (Asian lineage) Virus: Updated



The following guidance has been issued by the CT DPH Epidemiology and Laboratory Departments. Testing for avian influenza A (H5N1) should be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the DPH Epidemiology Program for hospitalized or ambulatory patients with documented temperature > 100.4 F and one or more of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and history of contact with poultry (e.g., visited a poultry farm, a household raising poultry, or a bird market) or a known or suspected human case of influenza A (H5N1) in an H5N1-affected country within 10 days of symptom onset. Laboratory testing for human cases of possible avian influenza (H5N1) is available only through the State laboratory. The State laboratory will provide free testing for avian influenza for any patient reported through the surveillance system who meets the above surveillance criteria. For further specifics, please visit http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/links/April_2006_CT_LRN_2.pdf.

Laboratory Professionals Emergency

Preparedness Conference – June 7, 2006: Updated

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory and Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness will be hosting a conference on June 7, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Connecticut Hospital Association. Connecticut's clinical laboratories will play a vital role as sentinel laboratories in the identification and management of a terrorism event. This conference will provide clinical laboratory professionals from all areas of the laboratory with current, relevant information on the ongoing initiatives underway in Connecticut to protect our citizens and prepare our healthcare laboratory resources to respond to a large-scale disaster event. For more information or to register for this event, please visit <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/links/LabConference.pdf>.

Training and Education

Reminder: **Updated**



A narrated version of Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103) for hospital employees is 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. In addition, an EM 103 toolkit is available for healthcare educators and staff development coordinators responsible for conducting instructor led emergency preparedness training to staff. 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-ROM and on the YNHHS-CoE Learning Management System (LMS) at <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/>. 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 healthcare workers. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@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 NIMS 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.

Ethical Hazards in Pandemic Flu Planning and Response Satellite Broadcast –

May 11, 2006: **Updated**

The Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) at the University of Albany School of Public Health will be broadcasting a program via satellite downlink titled "*Ethical Hazards in Pandemic Flu Planning and Response*" with speaker with Harvey Kayman, MD, MPH on Thursday, May 11, 2006 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. EST. Dr Kayman is with the University of South Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness and Public Health representative to the South Carolina Medical Association Ethics Committee. The Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness will be web casting this program on May 11 from 10-11:00 a.m. and from 4-5:00 p.m. EST. An archive of this web cast will also later be made available on the University of Albany CPHP web-site. For more information and to register for this program, please visit <http://www.ualbanycphp.org>



DHS Names Lead Federal Officials for the 2006 Storm Season: **Updated**

The Department of Homeland Security announced on April 26, 2006 the pre-designation of five teams that will coordinate the Federal government's role in support of state and local governments in preparing for, and responding to, major natural disasters this storm season. In total, 27 federal officials have been appointed as Principal Federal Officials (PFO), Deputy Principal Federal Officials (DPFO) and Federal Coordinating Officers (FCO) to facilitate Federal support of state and local governments. To read this press release in full, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5552>.

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



Enrollment in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP) is now available online at www.ct-esar-vhp.org. Phase I of the site implementation plan focused on facilitating volunteer enrollment and awareness level training. Enhancements during Phase II of the website development will offer navigation capability to local, state and national resources that provide important information for volunteers and hospital emergency management leaders ECP volunteers and hospital surge capacity.

Phase III site enhancements will include the functionality needed to enable the electronic distribution of hospital based volunteer enrollment information to the ECP Program Contact at each participating hospital so that they can proceed with the credential verification process at their institution. Each ECP Program Contact will be assigned a unique UserID which will allow them defined access for viewing and validating the skills and competencies self-reported by colleagues at their hospital who have enrolled in the ECP program. Phase IV development and enhancement will provide designated users with the capability to view and query the aggregate database based on skills and competency information validated from all professions and all hospitals across the state.

It's important to remember that this volunteer resource for hospital personnel surge capacity will contain confidential information offered by ECS volunteers. Like all personnel information, access to the information and the database should be made available only to those individuals who will be validating volunteer credentials or hold a recognized position in your hospital's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) organization structure.

Please take advantage of forums and opportunities at your hospital to promote the value of the ECS program as a strategy to support hospital surge capacity. For additional information about the ECP program, or to schedule a program presentation at staff or management meetings contact Carol Luddy by phone at (203) 688-3224, by email at carol.luddy@ynhh.org

Ricin: Information and Guidance for Clinicians: **Updated**

The CDC has updated ricin information for healthcare professionals including background, epidemiology, clinical description and prevention. Ricin is a potent biological toxin (toxic protein) derived from part of the "waste" mash when beans from the castor plant (*Ricinus communis*) are processed during manufacture of castor oil. It can be in the form of a powder, a mist, a pellet, or it can be dissolved in water or weak acid. Depending on the route of exposure (such as injection or inhalation), as little as 500 ng of ricin could be enough to kill an adult. A greater amount would be needed to cause death if ricin were ingested. For more information, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin/clinicians/background.asp>.

Training and Education: **Updated**



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 of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals (EM 230) is currently under review on the YNHHS-CoE LMS and is expected to be available later this month. 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.

The Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response is offering **instructor-led Incident Command Systems (EM 140)** training to all southern tier Connecticut hospitals. The instructor-led EM 140 NIMS enhanced course takes approximately three hours to complete and targets senior hospital administration and those healthcare workers who fill HICS positions within their hospital. At the conclusion of the training, the facility will be left with training materials that will support any additional instructor-led training required. If you are interested in scheduling a one-time instructor-led NIMS/ICS training for your hospital's leadership staff, please contact Lynette Lines at (203) 688-2590 or e-mail lynette.lines@ynhh.org.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6.8.06	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Southern Tier Meeting	Connecticut Hospital Association

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
5.11.06	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Ethical Hazards in Pandemic Flu Planning and Response Satellite Broadcast Sponsored by The Center for Public Health Preparedness at the University of Albany School of Public Health	For more information and to register for this program, please visit http://www.ualbanycphp.org .
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.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/Domestic_Bio_Incidents.pdf .
6.7.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Laboratory Professionals Emergency Preparedness Conference Sponsored by The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory and Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness	To register, please visit http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/links/LabConference.pdf .