

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Avian Influenza –

Indonesia Situation: **New**



The World Health Organization (WHO) says the cluster of bird flu deaths in one Indonesian family this month is the most significant development to date in the spread of the virus. The World Health Organization says it cannot rule out limited human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 bird flu virus, which killed

seven members of one Indonesian family earlier this month. Six of the seven family members were from one village in north Sumatra. WHO is particularly concerned because scientists cannot find a link to sick birds in these latest deaths.

"For the first time now we have people dying from this virus but we can find no source of infection outside their own family," WHO regional spokesman Peter Cordingley in Manila explained. "No dead chickens, no dying chickens, basically no animal source at all around them. So we're in a zone we've not been in before which is a large cluster and we don't understand it." All confirmed cases in the cluster can be directly linked to close and prolonged exposure to a patient during a phase of severe illness. Although human-to-human transmission cannot be ruled out, the search for a possible alternative source of exposure is continuing.

"There are 33 people identified as close contacts. We've asked them to observe home quarantine. That's something they are willing to do to protect themselves and their families," said Dick Thompson, spokesman for the WHO. For information, please visit

http://www.metronews.ca/reuters_international.asp?id=150700.

Both the Ministry of Health and WHO are concerned about the situation in Kubu Sembelang and have intensified investigation and response activities. To date, the investigation has found no evidence of spread within the general community. For more information, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_05_23/en/index.html.

Avian Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of May 23, 2006 was 218 cases and 124 deaths.

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

- Below is a list of countries with poultry or wild birds that have the H5N1 or H5 virus as of May 25, 2006:

Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan

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

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

Near East: Egypt, Gaza, Iraq (H5), Iran, Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Territories and the West Bank

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>.

- 300 plus scientists and experts, from over 100 countries, will gather in Rome on May 30 and 31 for a conference to examine the role of wild birds in spreading the deadly strain of bird flu. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, based in Rome, and the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health will be hosting the event. Key discussions will focus on the role of wild birds, as opposed to domestic poultry, in spreading the virus. Scientists will also discuss issues as the ecology and virology of HPAI, surveillance, risk analysis and disease management. For more information, please visit <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000306/index.html>.
- Federal scientists have started testing migratory birds for signs of the deadly virus A (H5N1) that could show up on this continent this spring and summer. The testing of shorebirds began on May 24th on an Anchorage coastal wildlife refuge. It's the first sampling of a summer-long project to swab birds for bird flu throughout the state. Nationwide, the goal is to sample 75,000 to 100,000 wild birds. For more information, please visit http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060518/ap_on_sc/bird_flu_testing.

Avian Influenza Personal and Family

Preparedness Website: **Updated**

YNH-CEPDR has developed a website on avian influenza. This site provides up-to-date information on avian influenza, including signs and symptoms, treatment, when you should seek further medical attention, avian flu resource links and most importantly, how you can prepare and protect yourself and your family. Please visit <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/influenza/index.html>

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Avian Influenza: **Updated**

- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has sent out the Pandemic Influenza Hospital Preparedness Checklist modified from the HHS Pandemic Flu Plan, Supplement 3 by the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR). 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. CT DPH 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.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.

Laboratory Professionals Emergency Preparedness Conference –

June 7, 2006: **Updated**

The State of Connecticut 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 the Connecticut Hospital Association in Wallingford. 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 citizens and prepare healthcare laboratory resources to respond to a large-scale disaster event. For more information or to register for this event, please visit <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/links/LabConference.pdf>.

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

WHO Rapid Advice Guidelines on Pharmacological Management of Humans Infected with Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus: **New**

Human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) infection have remained rare and sporadic, but the disease is very severe and the case fatality is high. With the H5N1 virus now confirmed in birds in more than 50 countries, additional sporadic human cases should be anticipated. Using innovative guideline development methods based on the best available evidence, the WHO assembled an international panel of experts in March 2006 to develop rapid advice for the pharmacological management of patients with H5N1 infection. The recommendations are classified as strong or weak and cover several specific patient and exposure groups for the treatment and chemoprophylaxis of H5N1 virus infection. All recommendations are specific to the current pre-pandemic situation and are based on careful consideration of the current evidence about benefits, harms, burdens and cost of interventions. To read this guidance in full, please visit

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/pharmamanagement/en/index.html.

2005 to 2006 Influenza Season is Over: **New**



The CDC has declared the influenza season officially over. This was mostly an influenza A/H3N2 year. About 73% of the 629 isolates antigenically characterized by the CDC were A/H3N2 viruses. During the course of the outbreak, however, an increasing percentage of the isolates were influenza B. During the last three weeks, over 60% of the isolates from many regions of the country were influenza B. To read further, please visit

<http://www.infectiousdiseaseneews.com/200605/frameset.asp?article=teted.asp>.

Department of Homeland Security Exercises for 2006 Hurricane Season: **Updated**



Photo Credit: NESDIS

The Department of Homeland Security has kicked off the first of five regional hurricane preparedness exercises to test improvements made since last year's hurricane season and to identify areas that require additional coordination before the start of this hurricane season, which officially begins June 1. The table-top exercises will focus on several key preparedness and disaster response functions, including evacuations, sheltering, National Response Plan implementation and National Incident Management System activation.

"Hurricane preparation is a shared responsibility among local, state and federal agencies and our non-governmental partners," said George Foresman, Under Secretary for Preparedness. "By training together now, we better integrate planning and response capabilities and make certain that roles and responsibilities are understood at all levels of government."

The first exercise in Philadelphia, May 3-4, involved Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Additional exercises will be held May 17-18 in New Orleans, involving Louisiana and Arkansas; May 31-June 1 in Atlanta, involving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, and June 20-21 (location TBD), involving New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. To read this release in full, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0904.xml.

Training/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/sign_in_em201.asp, 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 a 30-minute introductory CD-ROM course which provides the learner with the basic principles of radiation, definitions to terms commonly encountered in radiological and nuclear incidents, a description of the health risks associated with radioactive material, recommendations for safeguarding personal safety during a radiological and nuclear incident and an outline of the strategies for addressing the psychological impact of radiological and nuclear incidents. This introductory course is geared towards nurses, doctors, radiology technicians, radiation oncologists, radiation safety officers, patient care associates, technical assistants, nuclear medicine workers, EMS workers and mental health professionals. 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 Mental Health Aspects of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals (EM 230)** is now available on the YNH-CEPDR LMS. 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.

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



The growing threat of Avian Influenza and the above-average number of storms predicted for the 2006 hurricane season are just two of the reasons why hospitals should review their response planning now and include a strategy to quickly increase the number of credentialed personnel who will be able to care for a sudden and unexpected surge in patient volume.

Volunteers who are enrolled and pre-credentialed in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals will be an invaluable resource during a large scale disaster or public health emergency. To date, 1 out of 25 healthcare professionals licensed in Connecticut – over 4,000 physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and behavioral health, laboratory medicine, radiology professionals - have enrolled in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP) for Healthcare Professionals. 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.

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. 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

Training/Education: **Updated**



Photo Credit: FEMA

YNH-CEPDR is offering instructor-led **Incident Command Systems (EM 140)** training to all southern tier Connecticut hospitals. This course describes the ways an ICS can provide a consistent approach to command, control and coordination of all efforts aimed at protecting life, preserving property, supporting the emergency response and stabilizing the operations of a health care site, during an emergency or disaster. 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.

- To facilitate completion of required **National Incident Management System** training by key hospital executives and management staff with incident command roles and responsibilities, The Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response has developed an instructor led, train-the-trainer course that incorporates all of the NIMS objectives into a single, healthcare focused, time-effective learning opportunity. A facilitator's guide will be provided to allow the facility to deliver this training as needed on an ongoing basis. Please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-3224 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org to schedule this program at your facility.

Training and Education: 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 YNH-CEPDR learning management system (LMS). 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.
- **Reminder: 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/sign_in_em120.asp.** EM120 is aligned with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) required awareness-level competencies for first receivers. This 30-minute course has

been assigned to targeted staff on HealthStream. Job classifications that will be required to complete EM 120 in order to ensure compliance with OSHA standards include: (1) All employees who work in the emergency department (such as clinicians, housekeeping, security, patient registration, etc.); (2) All employees who are regularly scheduled to be on call for the emergency department; (3) Volunteers and residents assigned to the emergency department; (4) Employees involved in setting up, taking down or maintaining decontamination facilities, regardless of their primary job role and location; (5) Nursing leadership who function as potential nursing administrators on call; **(6) All members of the hospital decontamination team. This course is a prerequisite to a series of operations-level courses, currently under development.**

The operations-level decontamination course will also align with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) operations-level competencies and will be a prerequisite to a practical session, designed for employees involved in setting up, taking down or maintaining decontamination facilities, and for employees responsible for performing decontamination procedures. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider, OEP Education and Training Supervisor, at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

- YNH-CEPDR 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 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.

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
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.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/links/LabConference.pdf .

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