

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Avian Influenza – Indonesia Situation Update: New



WHO says the cluster of bird flu deaths in one Indonesian family in May is the most significant development to date in the spread of the virus. As of May 31, 54 surviving family members and other close contacts of cases have been identified and placed under voluntary home quarantine. All of these people, with the exception of

pregnant women and infants, are receiving the antiviral drug oseltamivir for prophylactic purposes. Public health teams visit these people daily, checking for symptoms.

No new cases suggestive of H5N1 infection have been detected since May 22, 2006. This finding is important as it indicates that the virus has not spread beyond the members of this [single extended family](#). No hospital staff involved in the care of patients, in some instances without adequate personal protective equipment, have developed the disease.

Based on an assessment of present evidence, WHO has concluded that the current level of pandemic alert is appropriate and does not need to change. The level of pandemic alert remains at phase 3. This phase pertains to a situation in which occasional human infections with a new influenza virus are occurring, but there is no evidence that the virus is spreading in an efficient and sustained manner from one person to another.

WHO has recommended continued close monitoring of the situation in Kubu Simbelang for the two weeks following May 22, the date when the last known case in the cluster died. As a precautionary measure, Indonesian authorities have decided to extend this recommended period to three weeks. For more information, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_05_31/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 29, 2006 was 224 cases and 127 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 29, 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>.

- 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 is the first sampling for 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.
- The CDC has developed a newsletter that provides pandemic influenza updates. The May 2006 edition features articles that discuss family and personal preparedness, vaccine research, basic infection control and research teams that are joining an international network to develop computer-based simulations of avian flu and other disease outbreaks. To read this newsletter, please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/influenza/documents/CDCFluUpdate0506.pdf>.

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.

Training/Education: Updated

- To facilitate completion of required **National Incident Management System** training by key hospital executives and management staff with incident command roles and responsibilities, YNH-CEPDR has developed instructor led, train-the-trainer courses that incorporate all of the NIMS objectives into a healthcare focused, time-effective learning opportunities. A facilitator's guide will be provided to allow the facility to deliver trainings 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.

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

2006 Hurricane Season: New

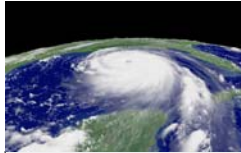


Photo Credit: NESDIS

The 2006 North Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1 and runs through November 30. The forecast for the upcoming hurricane season from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Hurricane Center (NHC) is predicting a total of 13-16 named storms with 8-10 hurricanes with 4-6 Category III or above. The active forecast is based on predicted above-normal sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico resulting in more and stronger hurricanes.

Governor Rell has directed the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to organize and conduct several training sessions and exercises early in the season to ensure maximum preparedness by local and state agencies. Some of those preparedness events and activities include a hurricane preparedness workshop for municipal officials on June 14, a federal regional hurricane preparedness tabletop exercise on June 20 to 21 and a statewide hurricane exercise on June 28.

In addition to the following dates, DEMHS has completed or have in process the following initiatives:

- Finalization of flexible regional evacuation plans and routes
- The consolidation of capacity data and location information on the state's 513 local emergency shelters
- Purchase and regional stockpiling of 9,000 cots
- A new public awareness campaign entitled "Be aware, be prepared" to be launched in August to focus the public's attention on family hurricane readiness. The program will include a 60-minute CPTV broadcast on citizen preparedness and television, radio and print public service advertisements
- Distribution to local officials of a newly published Emergency Directors Handbook
- Expanded distribution of the Connecticut Guide to Emergency Preparedness designed to help prepare citizens and families. The guide is also available online at www.ct.gov/demhs

For more information, please visit

<http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?Q=315278&A=2425>.

Indonesian Earthquake: WHO Urges the Right Kind of Medical Donations to Indonesia: New



Photo Credit: AP

WHO is working with the Indonesian authorities to provide medical care, acquire medicines and equipment and set up a disease surveillance system following the 5.9 Richter earthquake that struck the Indonesian Yogyakarta Province on May 27, 2006.

"There are shortages of some very specific medicines and supplies, including orthopedic supplies, anesthetics and antibiotics," said Dr Georg Petersen, WHO Country Representative, Indonesia. "However," he added, "Only appropriate medicines should be sent, and that too in consultation with the national authorities. Previous experience of disasters has shown that inappropriate contributions have only led to confusion."

There is also a lack of bed sheets, mattresses and other consumable medical equipment such as sterile kits for surgeries, stitching materials and x-ray films. WHO is compiling a list of necessary medicines, supplies and equipment to the affected area. To read about the medical needs further, please visit

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2006/pr31/en/index.html>.

Training/Education: Updated

- **Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110)** is an 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.
- **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.
- **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 trains health professionals in the recognition, treatment and referral of patients exhibiting behavioral health consequences related to public health emergencies and incorporates 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 (ECP) 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 and 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 the goal of 12,000 healthcare professionals, or at least 1 out of every 10 healthcare professionals licensed in Connecticut.

Enrollment in State of Connecticut 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 is important to remember that this volunteer resource for hospital personnel surge capacity will contain confidential information offered by ECP 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 ECP as a strategy to support hospital surge capacity. For additional information about ECP, or to schedule a program presentation at staff or management meetings, contact Carol Luddy at (203) 688-3224 or by email at carol.luddy@ynhh.org.

Training/Education: Updated

- 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.

Training/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.

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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