

# THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

## Avian Influenza: **New**



On July 19, 2006, "Preparing for a Pandemic Influenza: A Primer for Governors and Senior State Officials" was released. This guide identifies key planning issues for top state officials and walks through considerations officials should keep in mind when forming a plan. The pandemic primer stresses state reliance. Examples of state reliance could include increasing food storage at government facilities

and schools and stockpiling key equipment and supplies. Legal issues that may arise during the pandemic are detailed along with some suggestions for reviewing state laws. To download a PDF copy of this primer, please visit <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0607PANDEMICPRIMER.PDF>. For a detailed summary of this primer, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul1906governors.html>.

- On July 18, 2006, Novartis, the Swiss-based drug manufacturer announced plans to build the first U.S. plant to make cell-cultured based influenza vaccines. The facility will be built in Holly Springs, N.C. and will produce about 50 million doses of seasonal trivalent (three-strain) flu vaccines annually. Novartis also announced it has submitted a cell-based flu vaccine for approval by the European Union's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use. The company filed in June after successfully completing phase 3 clinical trials of the vaccine. The company is currently conducting a phase 1 and 2 clinical trial of a cell-based flu vaccine in the United States. In May, the US Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$220 million to Novartis for flu-pandemic preparedness. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul1806novartis.html>.

## Pandemic Influenza COCA Conference Calls – August 8, 2006 and August 21, 2006: **New**

On August 8, 2006, the CDC will sponsor a call on pandemic influenza preparedness from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EST. Dr. Nicole Smith will host this call. On Monday, August 21, 2006 Dr. Michael Doney will discuss quarantine issues and avian influenza. This call will take place from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST. For more information about these calls, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp>.

## Avian Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of July 14, 2006, is 230 cases and 132 deaths.

**Click on map for an enlarged view.**  
Map courtesy of [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

- Below is a list of countries with poultry or wild birds confirmed to have had the H5N1 or H5 virus as of July 13, 2006:

**Africa:** Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Niger, Nigeria and Sudan  
**East Asia & the Pacific:** Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China, Hong Kong (SARPRC), Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam  
**South Asia:** Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan and Pakistan (H5)  
**Near East:** Egypt, Gaza, Iraq (H5), Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories and the West Bank  
**Europe & Eurasia:** Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina (H5), Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark (H5), France, Georgia (H5), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro (H5), Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Ukraine

To read current reports, please visit [http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A\\_AI-Asia.htm](http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm).

- With the detection of the H5N1 virus, many countries across Europe and Asia have been developing preparations on how their country will deal with this threat. In an article published by the BBC, contingency plans, vaccine research, anti-viral stocks and other information is outlined for sixteen countries. To read this article, please visit <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/4380014.stm>.
- [Pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov) features a section that displays contact information and phone numbers for state departments around the nation. Contact information for the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Health in each state are listed on this site. To access this contact information, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/state/statecontacts.html>.
- On July 19, 2006, the US Senate committee approved "Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act" that will be placed on the legislative calendar for the Senate. The bill names the secretary of health and human services as the government's leader for health emergencies, requires states to meet preparedness standards and to share some of the cost of preparedness, seeks to coordinate and strengthen the nation's system of medical volunteers and calls for tracking of influenza vaccine supplies so that doses reach high-risk groups. In addition this bill sets standards for training and certification of the Medical Reserve Corps. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul1906bill.html>.

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## Statins Deserve Study for Treatment and Prophylaxis during a Flu Pandemic: **New**

In the July 2006 edition of *Infectious Diseases.com*, a recently published paper suggests a need for research to determine whether statins can be a viable treatment option in the event of a pandemic influenza. David Fedson, MD, a former director of medical affairs for a vaccine manufacturer with a general internist background, said that statins lower "bad" cholesterol levels in the blood by blocking the liver's production of cholesterol and may further protect the heart by regulating the immune system and reducing inflammation. Recent studies suggest that these effects also help patients with serious infectious diseases such as pneumonia and bacterial infection of the blood.

"Statins would not replace vaccines because unlike vaccines, they probably wouldn't prevent (influenza virus) infection itself. However, if research demonstrates that statins are beneficial, their value would most likely be in preventing serious complications and death. In order to do this, they would probably have to be continued throughout the duration of the illness. It is important to recognize that the statins/influenza idea is only that, an idea, it needs to be confirmed by rigorous scientific studies," Fedson said in a release. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/statinsdeservestudy.pdf>.

## Wyeth Extends the License for Dryvax® Smallpox Vaccine: **New**

On July 14, 2006, Wyeth Vaccines extended the license of Dryvax smallpox vaccine lots 4020077, 4020076, 4030020, 4020071, 4020072, 4020074, 4020075 and 4030014. To read a copy of this letter, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/pdf/wyethletter14jul06.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](mailto:center@ynhh.org) [www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency)

## Pandemic Influenza Summit – September 14, 2006:

### **New**

On September 14, 2006 Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will host an invitation only *Pandemic Influenza Summit* on alternative delivery models for healthcare organizations. The summit will provide a forum for healthcare delivery organizations and agencies in Connecticut (hospitals, EMS, community health centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, physician groups and urgent care centers) to meet and discuss the coordination of healthcare delivery through alternative systems during a pandemic influenza event. It will also provide a focus for planning and launch ongoing workgroups which will report progress to the Statewide Inter-hospital Working Group Meetings at CHA (formerly the Northern Tier and Southern Tier Hospital meetings), leading to specific recommendations in each of the topic areas to guide consistent, strategic and integrated pandemic policies and protocols. For more information, please contact Eugenie Schwartz at [eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org](mailto:eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org) or (203) 688-3224.

## HHS Announces Additional \$225 Million for State and Local Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Efforts: **Updated**



Secretary Michael Leavitt

On July 11, 2006, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt announced an additional \$225 million in funding for state and local preparedness. "These funds will build on the work begun at the summits and help local, tribal, territorial and state public health officials as they undertake critical preparedness planning that communities must do themselves," said Secretary Leavitt.

This funding is part of \$350 million included in recent emergency appropriations for upgrading state and local pandemic influenza preparedness passed by Congress in December 2005. In February 2006, the first phase of \$100 million was awarded to states for planning and exercising pandemic response plans and to identify gaps in preparedness. This second phase of funding is being awarded to begin addressing those identified gaps in pandemic influenza preparedness planning. The grants will be awarded to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three local jurisdictions (New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles County), five U.S. Territories and three Freely Associated States of the Pacific. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060711.html>.

## Avian Influenza Bird Testing and Monitoring: **New**



Common Eider  
Photo Credit: FluLab

The Alaska Science Center continues to monitor the H5N1 testing of birds closely. As part of its education outreach, the science center has developed animated movies that illustrate movement of five species of migratory birds from breeding and molting areas to post-nesting staging and wintering habitats. These birds have known contact with Asia and may bring the influenza virus back to the United States or Canada. To view these animated movies, please visit [http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/avian\\_influenza/wandering\\_wildlife\\_birds.html](http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/avian_influenza/wandering_wildlife_birds.html).

- Canada has begun monitoring wild waterfowl and shorebirds for the avian influenza virus. Testing will continue through October in the province of Alberta where birds migrate from the breeding grounds of the Arctic. For more information, please visit <http://www.occupationalhazards.com/articles/15409>.

## Initial Medical Screening and Ongoing Public Health Surveillance in Hurricane Evacuation Centers: **Updated**

The CDC is recommending an initial medical intake in evacuation centers housing hurricane evacuees, to be followed by ongoing public health surveillance. This guidance is intended specifically for persons in evacuation centers and does not necessarily apply to evacuees who may be in other residential settings. For more information, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/medscreening.asp>.

## JCR/OSHA/Red Cross 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness

Conference:

Disaster Readiness on  
the Home Front –  
October 19-20, 2006,  
Washington, DC: **New**

The Joint Commission the Joint Commission and the Joint Commission Resources have joined forces with OSHA and the American Red Cross to develop the 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, Disaster Readiness on the Home Front, a timely, important event, scheduled for October 19 - 20, 2006, in Washington, DC. This conference's in-depth, holistic approach to disaster readiness will help develop a comprehensive and efficient emergency management plan. OEP invites interested participants to submit one or more abstracts for exhibit in the poster presentation track of the conference. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed for their quality, originality and relevance to the conference. More information about accessing abstract submission will be available shortly. For more information or to register for this conference, call JCR Customer Service at (877) 223-6866 or visit <http://jcrinc.co.mansellgroup.net/UM/T.asp?A2557.25634.1808.1.113544>

Training/Education:

**Updated**

**Incident Command Systems (ICS) for Health Care with NIMS (EM 140 NIMS)** is a 40-minute course which offers an introduction to ICS for healthcare workers and is available at [http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign\\_in\\_em140nims.asp](http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em140nims.asp). 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 healthcare site during an emergency or disaster. EM 140 NIMS meets the National Incident Management System objectives for IS 200: Basic ICS, IS 700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS 800: Introduction to the National Response Plan, for health care delivery organizations as described in the document *National Incident Management System: National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance*, October 2005. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

## Severe Weather around the World: **New**

- On July 17, 2006, a 7.7 earthquake triggered a tsunami that smashed into a 110-mile stretch of Indonesia's Java Island's southern coast. An estimated 531 people were killed by the waves. Since 2002, this region has been devastated with natural and man-made disasters which include terrorist attacks, the 2004 tsunami, the May earthquake and avian influenza. For more information, please visit [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/I/INDONESIA\\_TSUNAMI?SITE=NJVIN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/I/INDONESIA_TSUNAMI?SITE=NJVIN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)
- On July 18, 2006, all of the 48 continental states in the United States reached 90° F plus temperatures. Many of the regions across the country experienced extreme heat which is defined as temperatures that are 10 degrees or more than the average high temperature for the region and last for several weeks. To protect your health, the following tips are important:
  - Drink plenty of fluids
  - Replace salt and minerals
  - Wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen
  - Pace yourself,
  - Stay cool indoors
  - Use a buddy system
  - Monitor those at high risk including infants and children, people 65 years or older, people who are overweight, people who are physically ill and people who overexert during work or exercise.



Common Eider  
Photo Credit: NOAA

For more information on extreme heat safety, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heattips.asp>.

## U.S. Department of Homeland Security to Sponsor Third Annual National Preparedness Month: **New**



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* Campaign launched an updated version of its Web site, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to educate Americans about the simple steps they should take to be ready for a variety of emergencies. The redesigned *Ready* Web site includes updated emergency preparedness resources, including special preparedness information for pet owners, senior citizens and individuals with disabilities and special needs. It also provides Americans with increased state and local information so they can learn about the types of emergencies that are more likely to happen in their area and the plans that have been established to deal with these emergencies. For more information, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5744>.

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5744>.

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will sponsor National Preparedness Month, along with a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year's goals are to increase public awareness about the importance of family emergency preparedness and to urge individuals to make themselves and their loved ones better prepared.

"Every American has a personal responsibility to ensure that their family is prepared for the unexpected," said Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman. "Through this effort, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Preparedness Month Coalition will encourage all Americans to be ready before emergencies happen." For more information, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5745>.

Training/Education: **Updated**

- Mental Health Aspects of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals (EM 230)** is now available at [http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign\\_in\\_em230.asp](http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em230.asp). 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](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

## Diagnostic Shipping and Packaging Seminars – August 8, 2006 and August 16, 2006: **New**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Division of Laboratory Services and Hartford Hospital are co-sponsoring two training seminars on the packaging and shipping of diagnostic specimens (Category B). Current regulations require that individuals preparing items for shipment need to be trained only in the type of shipping they are conducting. The first seminar will take place on August 8, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Stamford Hospital. The second seminar will take place on August 16, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Hospital Association. Space is limited for these seminars. For more information about the seminars, please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf>. To register please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor, at [vkristie@harthosp.org](mailto:vkristie@harthosp.org).

## Training/Education: **Updated**

- **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 of 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 has been designed for 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](mailto: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](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](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).

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

Hospital-based validation of volunteer skills, competencies and credentials is expected to begin in September. Each participating hospital must identify at least one individual who will be responsible for coordinating the validation process and for managing the information in the database during a large scale disaster or public health emergency. 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. In addition to their unique UserID and Password, designated program contacts will receive information and training on this user-friendly database application. If you have not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for the person at your hospital who is the designated contact for the Emergency Credentialing Program or enroll at [www.ct-esar-vhp.org](http://www.ct-esar-vhp.org). For additional information about the ECP or to schedule a program presentation at staff or management meetings, contact Carol Luddy at (203) 688-3224 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).

## The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) at Yale New Haven: **New**

Volunteers who can help support the hospital or public health infrastructure are also essential for personnel surge capacity. Online enrollment for the Medical Reserve Corps at Yale New Haven (MRC-YNH) is available at [www.mrc-ynh.org](http://www.mrc-ynh.org). The goal of the MRC-YNH is to recruit and register individuals from departments such as Biomedical Engineering, Materials Services, Patient Registration, Patient Services, Plant Engineering, Plant Maintenance and Security Services. For information about MRC-YNH, contact Eugenie Schwartz at (203) 688-3224 or [eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org](mailto:eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org).

## Training/Education: **New**

- **Introduction to Emergency Management with NIMS (EM 103 w/NIMS)** is now available at [http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign\\_in\\_em103nims.asp](http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em103nims.asp). This course provides awareness-level emergency preparedness training for the healthcare delivery workforce. Based on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) objectives, EM 103 w/NIMS is designed to assist healthcare workers in understanding their role in providing continuous care for existing patients and additional patients in the event of an emergency or a terrorist event. This course meets the NIMS objectives for IS 100: An Introduction to ICS, IS 700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and parts of IS 800: Introduction to the National Response Plan for healthcare delivery organizations as described in the document *NIMS: National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance*, October 2005. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).
- **Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers (EM 120)** is available at [http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign\\_in\\_em120.asp](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. 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 at (203) 688-2577 or [mark.schneider@ynhh.org](mailto:mark.schneider@ynhh.org).
- YNH-CEPDR has developed a series of emergency preparedness courses and workshops designed to prepare healthcare workers in community health centers for their roles in disaster response. These instructor-led sessions combine didactic lecture and group exercises that address topics including triage, personal protective equipment, infection control, risk communications and incident command. The course objectives 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](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org).

## UPCOMING

### Upcoming Meetings

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8.10.06	9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Southern Tier Group Discussion	Connecticut Hospital Association

## UPCOMING

### Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8.8.06	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST	Pandemic Influenza Preparedness	For call-in information, please visit: <a href="http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp">http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp</a>
8.8.06	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Diagnostic Shipping and Packing Seminar	Stamford Hospital For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf">http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf</a>
8.16.06	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Diagnostic Shipping and Packing Seminar	Connecticut Hospital Association For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf">http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf</a>
8.21.06	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST	Quarantine Issues – Avian and Pandemic Influenza	For call-in information, please visit: <a href="http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp">http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp</a>

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