

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Avian Influenza: **New**

OFFLU, the OIE/FAO joint network of expertise on avian influenza, will systematically make avian influenza virus sequences accessible to the entire scientific community. With this gesture, OFFLU reiterates its call to the world scientists, international organizations and countries for a global sharing of virus strains and sequences. Sharing virus strains, samples and sequences is a critical part of the global work on the surveillance and control of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus, and supports the preparation of human vaccines. For more information, please visit http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_060801.htm.

New Research Method to Study Spread of Hybrid Avian Influenza: **New**

Researchers at the CDC have developed a new research method that may help identify the types of genetic changes necessary for the avian influenza virus (H5N1) to be more easily transmitted among people. Significant genetic changes in the H5N1 bird flu virus likely would be needed to create a strain that could cause a pandemic. A series of experiments were recently completed in which genes from a common human flu virus were added to genes from a 1997 H5N1 virus to create new hybrid viruses, which were tested in ferrets because their susceptibility to flu viruses is similar to that of humans. While the human viruses transmitted easily between the ferrets, the avian and hybrid viruses did not. Future CDC studies will examine whether combining genes from the human flu virus with more recent H5N1 strains makes the new virus more easily transmittable. To read further, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r060731.htm>.

Pandemic Influenza COCA Conference Calls – Aug. 8, 2006 and Aug. 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 dial-in Number: (888)-469-1571 passcode pandemic flu Dr. Nicole Smith will host this call and will discuss pandemic planning assumptions and as well as identifying key surveillance objectives. 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/callinfo.asp>.

Avian Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of July 26, 2006, is 232 cases and 134 deaths.

Click on map for an enlarged view.
Map courtesy of www.who.int

- Below is a list of countries with poultry or wild birds confirmed to have had the H5N1 or H5 virus as of July 24, 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.

- A global early warning system for animal diseases transmissible to humans (zoonoses) was formally launched in Geneva by the FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Global Early Warning and Response System (GLEWS) is the first joint early warning and response system conceived with the aim of predicting and responding to animal diseases including zoonoses worldwide.

"Today, the spread of avian flu reinforces the fact that the animal and human health sectors must work closely together, and that early detection and coordination is critical. This new network is an important step forward." explained Mrs. Susanne Weber-Mosdorf, WHO Assistant Director-General. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000369/index.html>.

- On July 20, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the appointment of Mark Goldberger, MD, MPH, as Medical Director for Emerging and Pandemic Threat Preparedness in FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). In this newly created position, Dr. Goldberger will serve as a Senior Advisor for CBER's pandemic flu program to plan, coordinate and implement activities related to the development and evaluation of products for emerging and pandemic threats.

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White Powder Incidents:

New



In response to two recent white powder incidents, one in Tennessee and the other in Connecticut, the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory has published a brochure that outlines several types of scenarios of white powder incidents and the correct and safe responses to each type. Please visit

<http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/FirstResponder.pdf> for this brochure.

Heptavalent Botulinum Antitoxin to be Acquired by HHS: New

On June 1, 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a contract for the purchase of 200,000 doses of heptavalent botulinum antitoxin from Cangene Corporation, located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, at a price of \$363 million with delivery to the Strategic National Stockpile scheduled to begin in 2007. Unlike the current stocks of trivalent antitoxin, the heptavalent antitoxin is expected to be effective against all known types of botulinum toxin. For more information please visit <http://www.upmc-cbn.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.

HHS Assists States with another Antiviral Drug Purchase: Updated



Secretary
Michael Leavitt

On July 20, 2006, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced a contract award with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to provide zanamivir (Relenza®) to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five U.S. territories and three Freely Associated States of the Pacific at a federally subsidized price. The contract will run for a period of two years with an initial contract award amount of \$16,833,000.

"This announcement is another example of how we all must share in the responsibility to prepare our nation and its communities to respond to a pandemic flu outbreak," Secretary Leavitt said. "As we emphasized at summit meetings across the country, it will take everyone working together to be ready when a pandemic flu outbreak occurs here."

Under the HHS contract, 59 jurisdictions will be able to purchase at a federally negotiated price from GSK and will receive a 25 percent federal subsidy for a prescribed number of treatment courses. A complete table of projected antiviral purchases and subsidized allocations for all jurisdictions is posted online at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/state/antivirals.html>. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060720.html>.

Pandemic Influenza Summit – September 14, 2006: Updated



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 *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.

The summit will feature Anna Likos, MD, MPH as the keynote speaker. Dr. Likos joined the Influenza Division of the CDC as a medical epidemiologist in July. Her current position in the Influenza Division is focused on the international aspect of influenza, especially influenza A, H5N1, infections in humans and she has had the opportunity to provide technical assistance to countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. The summit is offered by invitation only. For more information, please contact Eugenie Schwartz at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3224.

GAO: DHS should delineate plan to help states evacuate patients in disaster: Updated



In a report written by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), hospital and nursing home administrators faced several challenges related to evacuations during recent hurricanes, including deciding whether to evacuate or stay in their facilities and "shelter in place", obtaining transportation necessary for evacuations, and maintaining communication outside of their facilities. Administrators took steps to ensure that their facilities had needed resources—including staff, supplies, food, water,

and power—to provide care during the hurricane and maintain self-sufficiency immediately after. However, when evacuations were needed, facility administrators said that they had problems with transportation, such as securing the vehicles needed to evacuate patients. Although facility administrators had contracts with transportation companies, competition for the same pool of vehicles created supply shortages when multiple facilities in a community had to be evacuated. In addition, communication was impaired by hurricane damage. To read this report in full, please visit <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06826.pdf>.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): Updated



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. 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.

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.
- **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.

Severe Weather around the World: New



Common Eider
Photo Credit: NOAA

On August 3, 2006 heat warnings were posted from Massachusetts to South Carolina and in parts of Oklahoma. Authorities have confirmed heat played a role in at least thirteen deaths and may be related to seven more. A heat wave was blamed last week for as many as 164 deaths in California. In response to high heat and humidity, Governor M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut issued a heat advisory and announced an 800 number that individuals needing heat-related assistance can call: 1-800-830-9426. Governor Rell also encouraged local mayors and first selectmen to establish "cooling centers," such as at movie theaters and senior centers, and keep them open as late as possible. To read this release in full, please visit <http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?Q=318238&A=2425>.

On Monday, August 1, 2006, The Department of Public Utility Control jointly with ISO New England, called for voluntary energy conservation to keep the electricity on during the heat wave and reminds the public that the critical period is from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residents and businesses can reduce the strain on the electric system by doing the following:

- Turn up the temperature on air conditioning closer to 78 degrees
- Turn air conditioning off when not at home or in any portion of a business not being used.
- Close blinds/drapes to keep the sun's heat out
- Turn off any equipment not needed
- Turn off non-essential lighting fixtures
- Use major appliances before 8:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/press_releases/2006/dpuc_energyconsheatwave.pdf

- While the United States is facing extreme heat, South Africa shivers through a harsh winter. Snow, floods, icy winds, even a possible tornado. South Africans are facing one of their harshest winters in years. Heavy flooding has caused some travel delays in the southern part of the country. To read further, please visit <http://www.wral.com/apworldnews/9616703/detail.html>.

JCR/OSHA/Red Cross 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: Poster Abstracts

Needed: New



Joint Commission Resources, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the American Red Cross (ARC) - leaders in patient safety, workplace safety and emergency response - have joined forces for the 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, Disaster Readiness on the Home Front. This conference, scheduled for October 19-20, 2006, in Washington, DC, will examine the threat of potential natural disasters and pandemic flu and help you formulate a practical response plan that allows for peak performance during an emergency.

In preparation for this timely event, individuals are invited to submit one or more abstracts for exhibit in the conference poster presentations, coordinated by the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. Abstracts must be submitted by September 1, 2006, and will be peer-reviewed for their quality, originality and relevance to the conference. At least one of the abstract's authors must attend to present the poster. A selection of accepted presentations will also qualify for publication in the Conference resource materials. For information about abstract submission, please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/disasterconference/index.html>. 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

- **tal 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. 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.
- 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.



There is space available in the September 21st -23rd National Disaster Life Support course to be held in New Haven. 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

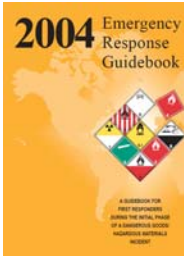
physicians, physician assistants, nurses and paramedics with two days of intensive training on mass casualty triage, decontamination and treatment. Individuals completing the BDLS and ADLS programs will receive CME credits and are eligible to take the instructor course, which prepares them to conduct 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. To download a brochure, please visit http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/commu/NDLS_2006CourseSchedule.pdf. For more information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.

Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP): Updated



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. 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.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA): New



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is soliciting comments on the development of the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG2008). PHMSA developed the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) for use by emergency service personnel to provide guidance for initial response to hazardous materials incidents. Since 1976, it has been the goal of PHMSA for all public emergency response vehicles, including fire, police and rescue squad vehicles to carry a copy of the ERG. PHMSA is soliciting comments on the experiences emergency responders have had obtaining emergency response information during the incident. The development of ERG2008 is a joint effort involving transportation agencies in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Any comments must be received by September 18, 2006. Please visit <http://www.dem.state.az.us/azserc/PDF%20Documents/ERG2008FR.pdf> for details.

Training/Education: Updated

- **Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers (EM 120)** is available 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. 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.

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

Training/Education: Updated

- **Introduction to Emergency Management with NIMS (EM 103 w/NIMS)** is now available at 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.
- **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. 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.

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UPCOMING
 Upcoming Meetings

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8.10.06	8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Inter-hospital Working Group	Connecticut Hospital Association
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: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp
8.8.06	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Diagnostic Shipping and Packing Seminar	Stamford Hospital For more information, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf
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 http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf
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: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp