

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Nation's Threat Level: **New**



As of August 24, 2006, the United States government threat level remains at Code **Orange**, or High, for all domestic and international flights. The ban on liquids and gels in carry on baggage remains in full effect. Nationally, in other sectors, the threat level remains at Code **Yellow**, or Elevated. Further information can be found at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>.

Pandemic Flu Preparedness: What Every Community Should Know Satellite Broadcast – September 29, 2006: **New**

On Friday, September 29, 2006, Public Health Grand Rounds will host a satellite broadcast on pandemic flu preparedness, what every community should know. This program will examine the case of California's Santa Clara County, where the community is preparing for a pandemic that will challenge their public health system and affect every aspect of their daily life. This call will take place from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST. For more information or to register for this broadcast, please visit <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/pandemic/index.htm>.

Are you prepared for the bird flu or any flu? **New**



The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response has produced what may be the nation's first wallet card to help people protect themselves from the flu - the bird flu and any other influenza. The wallet card includes a list of recognizable flu symptoms, treating flu at home and several ways people can protect themselves and their family, including developing an emergency preparedness plan and kit. Call (203) 688-2000 or toll-free (888) 700-6543 for a free copy.

Avian Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of August 23, 2006, is 241 cases and 141 deaths.

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

- On August 14, 2006, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior announced that routine surveillance has indicated the presence of H5 and N1 avian influenza subtypes in samples from two wild mute swans in Michigan, but testing has ruled out the possibility of this being the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain that has spread through birds in Asia, Europe and Africa. Test results thus far indicate this is low pathogenicity avian influenza, which poses no threat to human health. For more information, please visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/08/0294.xml>.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released interim guidance for states conducting avian mortality surveillance for West Nile Virus (WNV) and/or the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus. Surveillance of dead birds for WNV has proven useful for the early detection of WNV in the United States. In recent months, it has also proven useful for the early detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza A (H5N1). The interim guidance is written to support the efforts of states conducting avian mortality surveillance. Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/doh/aviansurveillance.htm> for more information.
- There are two types of avian influenza (AI) that are identified as H5N1. A difference exists in the virus classification: one is low-pathogenicity (LPAI), and the other is high-pathogenicity (HPAI). Pathogenicity refers to the ability of the virus to produce disease. HPAI H5N1, often referred to as the "Asian" H5N1, is the type causing worldwide concern. LPAI H5N1, often referred to as the "North American" H5N1, is less concerning. USDA has published a fact sheet that discusses the differences among the "Asian" H5N1 and the "North American" H5N1. To read this fact sheet, please visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/08/0296.xml>.
- The American Public Health Association has launched its "Get Ready for Flu Blog". This site features up-to-date information on pandemic flu, latest human cases reports, vaccine research and more. In addition, the site features interactive avian influenza blogging for posting and viewing comments. This site can be accessed at <http://www.getreadyforflu.blogspot.com/>.

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Materials for the 2006-2007 Flu Season: **New**



The CDC has updated its Flu Gallery of educational materials for promoting influenza vaccination. These materials reflect CDC vaccination recommendations and highlight the benefits of influenza vaccination. The Gallery contains print materials such as flyers and posters in color and black and white, in English and Spanish. Many of the materials can be reproduced on an office printer. For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/>.

Mississippi Department of Health: Year of Recovery: **New**

Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) discusses its year of recovery since the Katrina hurricane. In its summary, MDH discusses its cycle of training and retraining, the command system and reaching out to other agencies. To read this article, please visit http://www.uab.edu/images/uabmagazine/sccp/hp/fall06/html/partner_profile.htm.

NIMS Training: **Updated**

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 Lynette Lines at (203) 688-2590 or lynette.lines@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.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency

CDC and APHL Make Influenza Virus Sequence Data Publicly Accessible: **New**

Scientists at the CDC have released genetic blueprints for over 650 genes of influenza viruses into a database accessible to researchers worldwide. The action marks the beginning of a collaboration between the CDC and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) that will allow for greater access to data on a variety of influenza virus samples obtained from patients in the United States. The genetic sequence data will include seasonal flu viruses, any animal flu viruses that infect humans and any emerging strains, such as H5N1. The information will be deposited in two databases: GenBank, a public library of virus sequences managed by the National Institutes of Health, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory Influenza Sequence Database.

"CDC has long supported the timely and open sharing of influenza virus information to foster new research on influenza. We're excited that this historic collaboration with APHL provides a way to make international exchange of this information possible," said Dr. Nancy Cox, Director of the CDC's Influenza Division. "With more information, the world's influenza experts can advance our understanding of the viruses circulating, potentially create new prevention strategies and treatments, and ultimately help us better protect the health of people around the world." For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r060822.htm>.

WHO Changes H5N1 Strains for Pandemic Vaccines for the First Time since 2004: **New**

On August 18, 2006, WHO changed its H5N1 avian influenza strains recommended for candidate vaccines for the first time since 2004. The WHO's new prototype strains, prepared by reverse genetics, include three new H5N1 subclades. Genetic analysis has identified three distinct geographic distribution in human infections which include subclade 1, Indonesia; subclade 2, Middle East, Europe and Africa; and subclade 3, China. On the basis of the three subclades, WHO is offering companies and other groups that are interested in pandemic vaccine development these three new prototype strains: an A/Indonesia/2/2005-like virus; an A/Bar headed goose/Quinghai/1A/2005-like virus; and an A/Anhu/1/2005-like virus. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/aug1806vaccines.html>.

Pandemic Influenza Summit – September 14, 2006: **Updated**

On September 14, 2006, the 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, local and state government, 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 and infections in humans. She has had the opportunity to provide technical assistance to countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. Invitations for this summit were sent on August 16, 2006. For more information, please contact Eugenie Schwartz at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3224.

Training and Education: Updated



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.

- Frontline staff may not recognize victims of a bioterrorism attack, drills are unlikely to improve their knowledge much, and even staff who suspect exposure to a bioterrorism agent may not notify all the required authorities, according to a study in the August 2006 *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. Mock patients with signs of anthrax exposure were sent to the emergency departments (EDs) of 23 general hospitals in Israel. While 21 of the EDs admitted the patient, only 14 suspected anthrax exposure, and only 10 completely followed their protocols to notify hospital officials, infectious disease specialists, infection control practitioners and local public health institutions. Such notification is necessary to perform an epidemiologic investigation and rapidly contain an outbreak. Questionnaires given to ED physicians found a low level of knowledge about anthrax, with the average score rising from 54.5% before the drill to 59.3% after the drill. For this reason, it is important to take **Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians (EM 201)**. EM 201 is a 50-minute course designed to prepare physicians and other clinicians for a bioterrorist event or other potential public health emergency. This course is available at <http://ynhhs.emergencyyeducation.org>. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

Anthrax in Children Difficult to Detect and Treat, New Report Finds: **New**

Difficulties in diagnosing anthrax may lead to dangerous delays in caring for children infected with this often-deadly disease, according to a new report from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Treating pediatric anthrax is also a special challenge because most currently recommended therapies have not been widely used to treat children with the disease. Since anthrax exposure occurs rarely in the United States and most of the recent cases have been naturally occurring, clinicians may not have first-hand knowledge about the disease and might have difficulty diagnosing it. In addition, symptoms of pediatric anthrax can be easily confused with those of more common illnesses; for example, inhalational anthrax has symptoms similar to influenza. Also, there is little evidence about the effectiveness in children of interventions currently recommended for adults. "This report provides important information for dealing with exposure of children to anthrax," said AHRQ Director Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D. "It analyzes what is currently known about how this terrible disease affects children and identifies research needed to make us more effective in protecting our children from anthrax." For more information, please visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2006/pedanthpr.htm>.



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

Joint Commission Resources (JCR), 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 attendees 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>.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): **Updated**



MRC YNH-CEPDR is a community-based network of volunteers (of people like you) dedicated to making sure their families, homes, and communities are safe. Interest is high for this program which is designed to train everyday citizens to assist hospital personnel in the event of a disaster or public health emergency. To become a volunteer, please sign up at <http://www.ynh-mrc.org/>. For additional information about the MRC YNH-CEPDR or to schedule a program presentation, contact Eugenie Schwartz at (203) 688-3224 or eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org.

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. 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.
- **Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110)** is a 30-minute narrated 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 or a copy of the CD-ROM, 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 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.

Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP): Updated

- Response to last month's recruitment campaign has resulted in over 200 new volunteers taking advantage of the new and easy online enrollment process at www.ct-esar-vhp.org. In addition to the volunteer enrollment tool, the web site includes "FAQs" about the program and provides information that is important for volunteers to know about their role in a medical emergency management response. The total number of volunteers enrolled in the program, representing all disciplines and all areas of the state is nearly 4,000. While this is a good start, the ECP program goal is to have at least 10% (12,000) of the state's licensed professionals enrolled in the program and available as a personnel surge capacity resource during a large-scale disaster. Please contact Carol Luddy at (203) 688-3224 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org to schedule a presentation about the program at a management or staff meeting.
- Using a web-enabled process, hospital-based validation of ECP 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 to carol.luddy@ynhh.org.

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.
- **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 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.

UPCOMING

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9.14.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pandemic Influenza Summit	Invitation only: Contact Eugenie Schwartz at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3224
10.19.06 & 10.20.06	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	JCR/OSHA/Red Cross 2 nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: Disaster Readiness on the Home Front	More information is available at http://www.jcrinc.com/education.asp?durki=11641

UPCOMING

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9.21.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Basic Disaster Life Support Course	For more information, contact David Burich at david.burich@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3721
9.22.06 & 9.23.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Advanced Disaster Life Support Course	
9.24.06	8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.	National Disaster Life Support Instructor Course	
9.29.06	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST	Sponsored by the Public Health Grand Rounds Pandemic Flu Preparedness: What Every Community Should Know Satellite Broadcast	To register and for more information, please visit http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/pandemic/index.htm

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