

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Connecticut Pandemic Influenza Planning: **New**

- On September 14, 2006, Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health hosted a Pandemic Influenza Summit on alternative delivery models for healthcare organizations. The summit provided a forum for healthcare delivery organizations and agencies in Connecticut (hospitals, local and state government, local 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 also provided a focus for planning and launch of ongoing workgroups on alternate healthcare delivery systems, ethical and legal issues, human resources and personnel, risk communications, surge capacity and triage. As a result from each workgroup, priority tasks were determined for the next six months. Workgroups will report their progress at the next Interhospital Workgroup Meeting at Connecticut Hospital Association on November 9, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. A summary of the work group sessions can be found at <http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency/panflusummit/>.
- A final draft of Acute Care Hospital Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement was e-mailed on October 12, 2006. This nonbinding agreement acknowledges hospitals intent to work with each of the other hospitals, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the Centers of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response at the Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford Hospital in the event of a disaster. This document has been reviewed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and also by the Connecticut Hospital Association and is a requirement of US Department of Health and Human Services. To access this agreement, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/OEP_Emergency_Management_MOU.pdf. Please provide final review and comments to James Paturas at (203) 688-3496 or james.paturas@ynhh.org.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of October 11, 2006, is 253 cases and 148 deaths.

- On October 4, 2006, Baxter International reported preliminary results from an early clinical trial of a vaccine for avian influenza H5N1 which suggest the vaccine is safe and well tolerated and may prove effective against the disease. "This is the first clinical demonstration that a candidate H5N1 vaccine can induce antibodies that neutralize widely divergent strains of H5N1," said Noel Barrett, vice president of Global research and development for Baxter. The clinical trial of the vaccine included 270 healthy adults in Australia and Singapore and suggested the vaccine had similar side effects of those reported for seasonal flu vaccines. Baxter plans to begin a late-stage clinical trial of the vaccine early next year and will present the final results by the end of 2007. For more information, please visit <http://www.flulab.com/overview.php?a=2006-10-04-fl47>.
- A review article in the November issue of *Emerging Infectious Diseases* examines the evidence supporting the widespread assumption that influenza is transmitted from person to person primarily by large respiratory droplets rather than small aerosols. This distinction is important because the mode of transmission determines infection control procedures and choice of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers. In many articles and in most plans, the predominant mode of transmission is assumed to be large droplets, so little attention has been given to aerosol transmission. A review of the literature contradicts this view and asserts that there is strong experimental evidence of aerosol transmission of influenza. For purposes of pandemic planning, it is not necessary to determine which mode of transmission predominates; rather, it is sufficient to show that aerosol transmission occurs with appreciable frequency and to plan accordingly. Because the evidence for significant aerosol transmission is compelling, the current PPE standard, surgical masks, may not be adequate and may require that current guidelines be modified to adopt N95 respirators for standard PPE for healthcare workers during a flu pandemic. A full copy of the article can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no11/06-0426.htm>.
- In an article on the Clinician's Biosecurity Network, Dr. Eric Toner and Dr. Luciana Borio examine the stockpiling of vaccines in bulk in advance to a pandemic. To read this article, please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/CBNReportH5N1.pdf>.
- On October 12, 2006, Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, inaugurated a new FAO Crisis Management Centre (CMC) to fight Avian Influenza outbreaks and other major animal health or food health-related emergencies. The Centre operates around the clock, seven days a week with a staff of up to fifteen specialists and veterinarians. When a suspected outbreak is reported, CMC can dispatch its experts to any hot-spot in the world in under 45 hours. For more information, please visit <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000421/index.html>.

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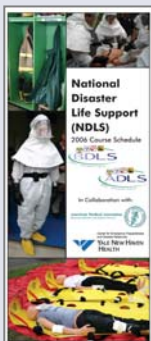
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National Disaster Life Support Classes – November 9-12, 2006:

New



There is space available in the November 9th-12th **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.valenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/NDLS_2006CourseSchedule.pdf. For more information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.

The Preparedness Report Archive: **New**

Are you looking for a past feature? All Preparedness Reports are archived at <http://www.valenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html>.

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.valenewhavenhealth.org/emergency

Homeland Security Guide for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources: **New**



The US Department of Homeland Security has published a *Pandemic Influenza Guide for Critical Infrastructure and Key Sources* report. This report contains information on roles, responsibilities and authority; pandemic business implications; a continuity of operations guide; partnership and information sharing; and public and media relations. To download a PDF copy of this 84-page report, please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/CIKRpandemicInfluenzaGuide.pdf>.

Influenza: **New**



On October 5, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved FluLaval, an influenza vaccine to immunize people 18 years of age and older against the disease caused by strains of influenza virus judged likely to cause seasonal flu in the Northern Hemisphere in 2006-2007. With the addition of FluLaval, there are now five FDA-licensed vaccines for the United States for the upcoming influenza season. For more information, please visit <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01478.html>.

- Based on discussions with influenza vaccine manufacturers and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates more than 100 million doses of influenza vaccine will be produced for the United States this year. This is 17 million more doses than ever distributed in any previous season. Furthermore, 75 million doses are projected for distribution by October 31st; therefore, once providers have vaccine, they are encouraged to vaccinate anyone seeking vaccine.

Mobile Field Hospital: **Updated**



On October 20th between 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and October 21st between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., MidState Medical Center and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will host an "open house" showcasing a 25-bed module of the Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Field Hospital (MFH).

Planning for the eventuality of a future devastating event is an ongoing process in hospitals and healthcare agencies across the state. Funded with a combination of state and federal money, the MFH is believed to be one of the first non-military MFHs in the United States. At its full capacity, the 100-bed MFH can be erected within hours of an emergency situation and includes intensive care, isolation, ambulatory and triage areas outfitted with medical supplies and equipment that can provide immediate emergency/disaster medical care. In the words of Dr. J. Robert Galvin, Commissioner of DPH at the April 2006 MFH dedication, "Otilie Lundgren represents us all. Naming this hospital in her honor allows us to forever remember Mrs. Lundgren's long life and remain cognizant that her untimely death led to the state's ability to better protect its residents." For more information, contact DPH at (860) 509-7975, email ECP@ynhh.org or follow this link to the open house invitational flyer, <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/StofCTflier091906.pdf>.

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

The growing threat of avian influenza and other natural disasters 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. Individuals who are currently enrolled or are considering enrolling in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP) are encouraged to attend the open house to learn more about how their participation in the ECP can play a major role in our state's ability to use the MFH as one strategy to increase hospital surge capacity during a large-scale disaster or public health emergency. For more information about the ECP, please contact Carol Luddy, RN, at (203) 688-3224 or ECP@ynhh.org.

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 the 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.



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 or 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.

Training and Education Services: Updated

- At the request of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center, the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is working with YNH-CEPDR in collaboration with DPH to receive approval of two courses, Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103 NIMS) and Incident Command Systems (ICS) for Healthcare with NIMS (EM 140 NIMS), as a strategy to meet the NIMS training requirements for all healthcare organizations. For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@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 Lynette Lines at (203) 688-2590 or lynette.lines@ynhh.org.
- YNH-CEPDR is committed to developing and delivering services that advance healthcare planning, preparedness and response for emergencies and disasters. YNH-CEPDR offers the following services to hospitals, other healthcare delivery organizations, emergency management professionals, the business community and others.
 - **ASSESSMENTS:** Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, Business Impact Analysis and Gap Analysis
 - **PLANNING:** Emergency management plans and business continuity plans
 - **EDUCATION and TRAINING:** Course development and course delivery in various modalities (including web-based)
 - **DRILLS and EXERCISES:** Development, facilitation and evaluation

For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@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 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 Healthcare with NIMS

(EM 140 NIMS) is a 1-hour and 15-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 NIMS 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 healthcare 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.

Training/Education: Updated

- 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.emergencyeducation.org>. 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 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.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
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
10.24.06	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity Conference Call: Upcoming Influenza Season	More information is available at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp
11.9.06	8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Statewide Interhospital Working Group	Connecticut Hospital Association
11.9.06	9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Southern Tier Meeting Only	Connecticut Hospital Association

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10.19.06	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Cities Readiness Initiative Satellite Broadcast: A CDC sponsored initiative to aid cities in increasing their capacity to deliver medication and medical supplies during a large-scale public health emergency.	More information is available at http://www2.cdc.gov/PHTN/cric/default.asp
11.9.06 to 11.12.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.	National Disaster Life Support Classes	More information is available at http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/ndls_events.html

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