

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Preparedness Report Survey:

New

On March 13, 2007, the Preparedness Report Survey was launched to its readers. Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) is inviting you to participate in this anonymous survey of the Preparedness Report, which is a weekly newsletter designed to provide a single source of timely healthcare emergency preparedness information. YNH-CEPDR is interested in learning how the Preparedness Report is valuable to you and your organization. Your response will help us to improve the quality of this publication and better meet your emergency preparedness needs in the future. If you have not done so already, please complete this anonymous survey by Wednesday, March 20, 2007. Please click on the following link to access the survey, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=786803328270>.

FDA Unveils Pandemic

Preparedness Plan: New



On March 14, 2007, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a pandemic plan that defines the agency's current role in federal pandemic planning, such as expediting the review of new vaccines and antivirals, and lists

work it will do in areas such as food safety and targeting counterfeit drugs. The plan addresses six major areas: vaccines, antiviral medications, medical devices, food and feed safety, emergency preparedness and response and enforcement. The plan also details steps needed to improve the surge capacity for producing products that will be crucial during a pandemic, such as antivirals, diagnostic tests, personal protective equipment and other medical equipment. The FDA, as part of this pandemic plan, will provide a list of regulated foods and animal feeds that are at increased risk for contamination from a pandemic virus strain. This list would include products that contain poultry ingredients. To read a summary of the plan, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar1407fda.html>. To read the pandemic plan, please visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/op/pandemic/strategicplan03_07.html.

Avian Influenza: New

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of March 12, 2007, is 278 cases and 168 deaths.



Scientists at the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens, GA, recently tested whether cooking chicken at the USDA-recommended temperature kills the H5N1 virus. The researchers used heavily contaminated meat from 4-week-old White Leghorn chickens that they infected with a 2003 Korean strain of the H5N1 virus. Their study, described in the March issue of the *Journal of Food Protection*, showed that cooking the meat at the

recommended 165°F killed the virus with a large margin of safety. The USDA made the 165°F recommendation in April 2006, on the basis of advice from its National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. Some previous federal recommendations called for slightly higher temperatures. For more information, please visit

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar1407fda.html>.

- On March 14, 2007, the Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and Director-General Jacques Diouf of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) signed a Framework Agreement to coordinate technical assistance between USDA and the FAO. The agreement will help to address issues important to agriculture, such as animal and plant diseases including avian influenza, chronic hunger, conservation, genetic resources and the growing demand for renewable energy resources. The Framework Agreement was approved last fall and formally signed on March 14, 2007. Under the agreement, a Crisis Management Center was formed, operated by the FAO in close collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and located in Rome. It provides animal disease analysis and deploys international resources to prevent and contain animal diseases. The center is currently focused on highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, which continues to spread in parts of the world. Three USDA specialists are currently assigned to the center. For more information, please visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/ut/pl/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/03/0064.xml>.
- During the week of March 12th, the USDA hosted a workshop to prepare 50 volunteers from more than 15 countries for rapid international deployment to combat highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza. The volunteers have technical expertise in epidemiology, biosecurity, surveillance and detection. For more information, please visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/ut/pl/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/03/0064.xml>.

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Avian Influenza: **Updated**



A special committee of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) is studying questions about the role of equipment such as masks, gowns and gloves in protecting healthcare workers during an influenza pandemic and is expected to release a report in September.

The twelve member committee met in Washington, DC, February 22, 2007, to hear from medical experts, manufacturers, government agencies and other groups with a stake in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The panel "is looking for ideas to understand and improve the effectiveness of PPE" in a flu pandemic and also examining behavioral factors that affect health workers' use of such equipment, said Debra Berg, MD, director of the Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, who attended the Washington meeting. The meeting's formal agenda included panel discussions on the risks to health workers, designing and engineering PPE, individual and institutional issues in the use of PPE, and certification and regulation of PPE. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar0107iom.html>.

Indonesia Wants Legal Pact on Sharing H5N1 Samples: **New**



On March 14, 2007, Indonesia vowed not to share H5N1 avian influenza virus samples with the World Health Organization (WHO) until it has a "legally binding" guarantee that the samples won't be used to develop vaccines that the country can't afford, according to news services. Indonesian Health Minister Siti Failah Supari told reporters in Jakarta, "We will not share our virus samples without a change in the rules," the Associated press (AP) reported. The statement signaled the continuation of a standoff that has lasted several weeks. In a Feb 28 letter, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan promised Indonesia that its viral specimens would be used "for public health risk assessment purposes only," the AP reported. She also promised that, pending a formal agreement, the WHO would obtain Indonesia's permission before sending any samples to a vaccine producer. However, Indonesia has not supplied any H5N1 samples to the WHO since the end of 2006. Steps toward resolution of the problem have been reported twice in the past month, but no final agreement has been reached. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar1407indo.html>.

HHS Launches New Online Toolkit for Medical Responses to Radiation Emergencies: **New**



On March 8, 2007, HHS launched its new online toolkit for medical responses to radiation emergencies. This toolkit is designed for healthcare providers, primary physicians, who may have to provide medical care during a radiation incident. The toolkit includes procedures for diagnosis and management of radiation contamination and exposure, guidance for the use of radiation medical countermeasures and a variety of other features to facilitate medical responses. Please visit the radiation event medical management website at <http://remm.nlm.gov/>.

Responding to a Radiological Event Training for the First Responder – April 3 and 4, 2007: **Updated**



The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will host a "Responding to a Radiological Event Training for the First Responder" on April 3 and 4, 2007 in Norwich, CT. This two-day course will include hands-on interactive training along with conventional lecture format. Topics to be addressed include; radiation basics, including types and characteristics of radiation, exposure and radiation measurement, personal protective equipment, physiological and psychological effects of radiation, biodosimetry, radioactive sources both natural and man-made, instrumentation types and limitations, site protocols for responding to an incident or investigating a site, communications, and radiological terrorism. This course is offered free of charge and is geared towards first responders in police, fire and emergency medical service organizations. For more information, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/CT_DPH_Trainingfora1stResponder.pdf.



Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110): **New**

YNH-CEPDR has developed **Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110)**, 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 planned for release in the spring of 2007. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

17th Nuclear Medical Defense Conference: **Updated**

Drs. Dainiak and Albanese, of the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, delivered invited presentations at the 17th Nuclear Medical Defense Conference held February 28th to March 1st, 2007, at the Institut für Radiobiologie der Bundeswehr, in Munich, Germany. This year's conference hosted over 250 clinicians, research scientists and representatives from military and civilian organizations from 30 countries, who came together to discuss various elements of radiation accident management. Also presented were novel results and insights into various aspects of radiation biology and radiation medicine by prominent scientists in the fields of Hematology, Oncology and Nuclear Medicine. At the conclusion of the conference, Drs. Albanese and Dainiak participated in a consensus workgroup tasked with the development of an educational program for physicians working in 500 European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplant (EBMT) Hospitals. The educational program is intended to instruct physicians how to diagnose and treat patients suffering from radiation overexposures. For more information, please contact Dr. Albanese at (203) 688-3316 or joseph.albanese@ynhh.org.

HICS IV Workshop— Coming Soon: **New**

The Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS III) was recently updated to its fourth version by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority. The update includes over 1,000 pages of supporting documentation. YNH-CEPDR has developed a quick reference guide and a facilitated workshop to streamline the transition from HEICS III to Hospital Incident Command System (HICS IV) for hospitals. The workshop will highlight what is new with HICS IV and will detail the changes to the organizational chart, job action sheets and forms as well as provide an overall context for implementation of HICS IV. It will then conclude with a facilitated tabletop discussion in order to reinforce the objectives of the workshop. The target audiences for this workshop are emergency management planners and coordinators from any facility that has previously implemented HEICS III and is looking to upgrade to HICS IV. Program participants will receive a copy of the HICS IV Quick Reference Manual that was developed by the YNH CEPDR. Please contact Samantha Kopp at samantha.kopp@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2563 or Kimberly Spaulding at kimberly.spaulding@ynhh.org or (203) 688-4482 for additional information.

Our Community Prepares Conference – April 26 and 27, 2007:

New



The Institute for Disaster Mental Health at the State University of New York at New Paltz will hold its annual conference on April 26 and 27, 2007. The theme for the conference is "Our Community Prepares". Presentations and workshops will highlight a number of approaches to improve the planning, quality and availability of services for trauma/disaster survivors and their families. The conference is designed to

facilitate training, communication and cooperation among professionals, paraprofessionals and those involved with disaster relief efforts. For more information, please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/CONF2007.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 www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency

Seasonal Influenza: **New**



Illustration Credit:
CDC

From February 25, 2007 to March, 2007, widespread seasonal influenza activity was reported by twenty-five states (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin); regional activity was reported by New York City and sixteen states (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wyoming); local activity was reported by the District of Columbia and six states (Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri and Vermont); and sporadic activity was reported by three states (Mississippi, Rhode Island and Utah). For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.



The Medical Reserve Corps Strategic Meeting: **Updated**

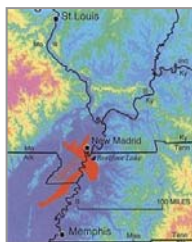
On March 2, 2007, a strategic planning meeting for all nine Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units in Connecticut was held in Hartford, CT. Led by Mary Duley, Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, the participants discussed developing a Connecticut model for a regional approach for the MRC units. Additional speakers included Jennifer Frenette, Region MRC coordinator, Wayne Sandford, the Deputy Commissioner, DEMHS and attorney Brenda Bergeron, legal counsel for DEMHS. To learn more about the Medical Reserve Corps please visit www.mrc-ynh.org or contact Eugenie Schwartz, RN, MSN at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org.

Universal Access to Shelters: Draft Guidance: **Update**

The State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) in conjunction with a number of state and local partners, has developed draft guidelines for municipalities to use in developing and reviewing plans for their local disaster relief shelters. These draft guidelines introduce and promote the concept of "universally accessible disaster relief shelters," which are congregate public shelters that are planned, equipped and operated to meet the sheltering needs of a wide variety of community members, including most people with disabilities and older adults. The goal is to ensure that disaster relief shelters in Connecticut are accessible and usable by all community members who normally live independently so that, wherever possible, families and neighbors can shelter together, and the need for "special" transportation and sheltering arrangements is reduced. For more information, please contact Samantha Kopp at (203) 688-2563 or samantha.kopp@ynhh.org. To access this document, please visit <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?Q=332624&A=1911>.

New Madrid Fault Line Exercise Scheduled:

Updated



Emergency officials across West Tennessee are preparing for a multi-state emergency drill this summer. The exercise, scheduled for June, will test their response in the event of a serious disaster like an earthquake along the New Madrid fault. The seismic area, also known as the Reelfoot Rift, is a series of faults that run along the Arkansas/Tennessee border. A series of earthquakes measuring over 8.0 on the Richter scale hit the area during the winter of 1811 and 1812. The quakes were among the largest in the contiguous United States. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and officials in 21 West Tennessee counties, as well as their counterparts in Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois, will be involved. Obion County emergency management director Mike George said communicating without the use of telephones and cell phones could be the biggest difficulty. The county has purchased satellite phones and a new radio system to get ready for the drill and a real emergency. For more information, please visit <http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=6142126>.

Education and Training Services: **Updated**

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, emergency operations plans and business continuity plans
- **EDUCATION and TRAINING:** Course development and course delivery in various modalities (including web-based)
- **DRILLS and EXERCISES:** Design, development, facilitation and evaluation

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

Education and Training: **Updated**

Best Practices for the Protection of Healthcare-Based First Receivers, Operations Level (EM 220) is a four-hour online course followed by a four-hour hands-on training. EM 220 is designed to advance healthcare workers from the awareness level to the operations level of training for hospital-based decontamination teams. Prior to enrolling in this operations-level course, participants are required to have successfully completed the awareness-level course, EM 120. EM 220 is recommended for healthcare workers with roles in their facility's decontamination process including medical practitioners (MD/DO, PA, NP), nurses (RN, LPN), allied health (ED techs, nurses aides, etc.), maintenance staff, environmental services staff, facilities staff, engineering staff, security and outside contractors. This course prepares healthcare workers to identify possible risks associated with unannounced patients and to fulfill specific roles in the decontamination process and trains healthcare workers to properly use protective equipment. This course adheres to Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Standard 29 CFR 1910.120 and the Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Patients, which was a result of the OSHA revisions of February 2005 to address the concerns of hospital responders. EM 220 is planned for release in March. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

Safe and Resilient Hospitals; Preparing for the Next Disaster: **Updated**



How well do you think your hospital would withstand a large-scale disaster? Would you be able to continue to fulfill your mission to provide ongoing healthcare to your community, or would your organization be yet another victim of the disaster? How does one define a "Prepared/Resilient Hospital", and what are some approaches that hospitals can take to become prepared?

Work has begun through various groups around the world to define guidelines and associated benchmarks for various aspects of healthcare emergency preparedness. However, much remains to be done to provide healthcare organizations with consistent and practical tools that can be used to objectively measure their level of preparedness, regardless of location, culture and population. Equally important is developing recommendations and flexible solutions that can be readily implemented by organizations of various sizes and with other unique characteristics to address identified preparedness gaps and incorporate evidence-based, best practices learned from disaster research. **As an experienced healthcare leader, you will want to be a part of this international benchmarking and implementation process.**

Please join Joint Commission International, the Pan American Health Organization and the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response at the 15th World Congress for Disaster and Emergency Medicine as we lead a two-day working session focused on: (1) reaching consensus on 5 key hospital emergency preparedness guidelines; (2) developing a framework for meeting those guidelines through the identification of measurable benchmarks; (3) identifying evidence-based, best practice approaches to guide healthcare preparedness activities; and (4) establishing a process to engage healthcare delivery experts in benchmarking for emergency preparedness. The work completed by the workshop participants will be published and your participation cited.

Register for the Congress and this unique workshop at http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/hospital_prepared.pdf and receive the early bird discount! More information on the Congress may be found at www.wcdem2007.org. Don't miss this opportunity. Register today!



Education and Training: **Updated**

- Introduction to Emergency Management with NIMS (EM 103 w/NIMS) and Incident Command Systems for Healthcare (EM 140 w/NIMS) have been approved as compliant by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center (NIC). These courses are cost-effective, time-efficient and provide a healthcare-focused alternative to required FEMA courses. Together, EM 103 w/NIMS and EM 140 w/NIMS have been approved by the DHS NIC as meeting the required objectives of IS 100, IS 200, IS 700 and IS 800 for healthcare organizations. To access these courses, please visit <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/>. For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.
- **Introduction to Emergency Management with NIMS (EM 103 w/NIMS)** is available at <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/>. Yale New Haven Health System employees should access via the learning management system at <http://cmecourses.com/ynhh/>. EM 103 w/NIMS has been **certified by the DHS NIMS Integration Center** as meeting the required objectives of IS 100, IS 700 and IS 800 for healthcare organizations and provides awareness-level emergency preparedness training for the healthcare delivery workforce. 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. 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 w/NIMS)** is a 50-minute course which offers an introduction to ICS for healthcare workers and is available at <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/>. Yale New Haven Health System employees should access via the learning management system at <http://cmecourses.com/ynhh/>. EM 140 w/NIMS has been **certified by the DHS NIMS Integration Center** as meeting the required objectives of IS 200, IS 700 and IS 800 for healthcare organizations. 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. 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
4.4.07	1:00 to 2:00 p.m.	NEPHERET WebEx Session	To join this WebEx session, please contact YNH-CEPDR Rebecca Chestnutt at rebecca.chestnutt@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2656.
4.12.07	8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Statewide Interhospital Working Group	Connecticut Hospital Association
4.12.07	9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Southern Tier Meeting	Connecticut Hospital Association

UPCOMING

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
3.22.07	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Psychology of Terrorism and Psychological Counterterrorism: 7 Things You Must Know <i>Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Public Health</i>	To register for this call, please visit http://www.adph.org/alphnt/vcomm.asp?action=conflistone&templatnbr=3&deptid=143&templateid=1252 .
3.27.07	11:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Bombs, Explosions and Preparedness: A New Role for Public Health and First Responders <i>Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Public Health</i>	To register for this call, please visit http://www.adph.org/alphnt/vcomm.asp?action=conflistone&templatnbr=3&deptid=143&templateid=1252 .
4.3.07 and 4.4.07	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Responding to a Radiological Event Training for the First Responder <i>Sponsored by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health</i>	For more information, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/CT_DPH_Trainingfora1stResponder.pdf .

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Preparedness Report Archive: <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html>

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