

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

CDC Health Advisory- Measles Outbreaks in the United States: **New**



Credit: SPL

A measles outbreak linked to an importation from Switzerland is currently ongoing in Arizona. The first case, with rash onset on February 12, 2008, occurred in an adult visitor from Switzerland who was hospitalized with measles and pneumonia. This

hospital admission prompted verification of the measles immune status of approximately 1,800 healthcare personnel and vaccination of those without evidence of immunity. Through March 31, 2008, nine confirmed cases have been reported to the Arizona Department of Health Services, and there are two suspected cases (one in a Colorado resident) and hundreds of contacts under investigation. The nine case-patients range in age from 10 months to 50 years. All but one was infected in healthcare settings, one of the five adult case-patients is a healthcare worker, and all cases were unvaccinated at the time of exposure. For more information, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Announces WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule: **New**

On March 27, 2008, the DHS and the United States (U.S.) Department of State (DOS) announced the final rule for the land and sea portion of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), a core 9/11 Commission recommendation. The WHTI final rule requires travelers to present a passport or other approved secure document denoting citizenship and identity for all land and sea travel into the United States. WHTI establishes document requirements for travelers entering the United States who were previously exempt, including citizens of the U.S., Canada and Bermuda. These document requirements will be effective **June 1, 2009**. "We are on course to implement and enforce the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative which is an important step forward in securing the homeland," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Limiting and standardizing the types of documents presented will result in a more secure and efficient border. We will continue to encourage cross-border travel and trade while at the same time decreasing identity theft and fraud." To learn more about this new initiative, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1206634226418.shtm.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of April 2, 2008, is 376 cases and 238 deaths.



Bird Flu
Credit: REUTERS/China Daily

On April 2, 2008, the Ministry of Health of Indonesia announced three new cases of human H5N1 avian influenza infection. The cases are not linked epidemiologically, and the source of infection for all three cases is still under investigation. The first is a 15-year-old male student from Subang District, West Java Province who developed symptoms on March 19, was hospitalized on March 22, and died on March 26. The second case is an 11-year-old female student from Bekasi City, West Java Province who developed symptoms on March 19, was hospitalized on March 23, and died on

March 28. The third case is a 21-month-old female from Bukit Tinggi, West Sumatra Province who developed symptoms on March 17, was hospitalized on March 22, and is presently recovering in the hospital. Of the 132 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 107 have been fatal. For more information on the situation in Indonesia, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_02/en/index.html.

- On March 26, 2008, a report out of Rome indicates that ducks, people and rice paddies, rather than birds, are the major factors behind outbreaks of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza in Thailand and Viet Nam, and are probably behind outbreak persistence in other countries of the region such as Cambodia and Lao PDR. In "Mapping H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza risk in Southeast Asia: ducks, rice and people", just published in the latest issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States (PNAS), a group of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and associated research centers looked at the series of waves of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Thailand and Viet Nam between early 2004 and late 2005. The paper notes that there is a strong link between duck grazing patterns and rice cropping intensity. Ducks feed mainly on leftover rice grains in harvested paddy fields, so free-ranging ducks in both countries are moved to many different sites in-line with rice harvest patterns. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000817/index.html>.
- On March 25, 2008, CIDRAP reported that recent pandemic influenza response exercises have helped the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) improve its tools for making policy decisions quickly, according to senior CDC officials. Before a large-scale exercise conducted earlier this month, the agency set up a "planning cell" of leaders who were insulated from the need to respond immediately to events so they could think carefully about policy issues raised by the emergency, officials said. In the exercise, on March 11th and 12th, the new group made a noticeable impact on the CDC's ability to make decisions, according to Dr. Richard Besser, director of the CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response. "One thing I was struck by was that we did a much better job of reaching decisions quickly, and it's critical that in a crisis we do that," Besser said in a recent interview about the results of the exercise. For more information on the parameters and outcomes of this exercise, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar2508exercise-jw.html>.

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US DHHS Region I (New England) Emergency Planning Office (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response – ASPR)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Publication Focuses on Security Personnel

Security personnel (i.e., guards) stand to benefit from a new publication by OSHA entitled **Preparing and Protecting Security Personnel in Emergencies**. This publication addresses emergencies involving hazardous substance releases and provides guidance for employers and their security personnel who may be involved in the emergency response. Printed copies can be obtained by calling OSHA's publications office at (202) 693-1888.

The following resources are identified to assist your preparedness activities:

New/Highlighted Resources:

IAEM Discussion Group: Behavior and Needs of Professionals in Emergency Preparedness and Management
<http://is.njit.edu/turoff>

Federal Stafford Act Disaster Assistance: Presidential Declarations, Eligible Activities, and Funding, January 28, 2008
<http://opencrs.com/document/RL33053>

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) use for public health and medical emergency response and recovery operations
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/emac>

Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology CD-ROM, Version 3
To learn more about the courses or to order a free CD-ROM, visit
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phel.asp>

The US National Response Team WMD Subcommittee is proud to announce completion of 25 biological and chemical Quick Reference Guides (QRGs), which are available by visiting www.nrt.org and looking under Hot Topics and Current Events.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Selects Schools to Host New Centers of Excellence
http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1204061890079.shtm

Emergency Evacuations from Major Cities, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
<http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/spotlight.html?id=801&preview=1>

National Disaster Response: FEMA Should Take Action to Improve Capacity and Coordination between Government and Voluntary Sectors. GAO-08-369, February 27.
<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-369>
Highlights
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d08369high.pdf>

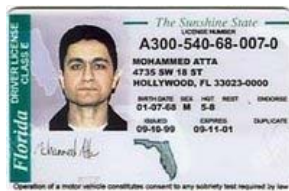
A correspondence course to provide an overview of the new National Response Framework.
<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp>

Seasonal Influenza: **New**



During the week of March 16-22, 2008, widespread activity was reported by Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Virginia; regional activity was reported by Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; local activity was reported by the District of Columbia, Massachusetts and Mississippi; and sporadic activity was reported by Puerto Rico and Arkansas. To read this report in full, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>.

Most Jurisdictions Meet Initial REAL ID Requirements: **New**



Credit: DHS

On April 1, 2008, the DHS reported that they have granted extensions to 49 of 50 states, the District of Columbia and all five U.S. territories, putting more than 99 percent of U.S. driver's licenses and ID cards on the path to secure identification. Congress mandated in the REAL ID Act of 2005 that state-issued identification must be REAL ID compliant to be acceptable for official purposes. The department made extensions available for states that needed additional time to come into compliance, or to complete ongoing security measures. Initial extension requests were due by March 31, 2008. These extensions are valid until Dec. 31, 2009, when states must upgrade the security of their systems, to include a check for lawful status of all applicants, for their licenses and ID cards to be acceptable for official purposes. REAL ID enrollment will be completed for all individuals 50 years of age and under by **Dec. 1, 2014**. For all others, enrollment may be extended three additional years to Dec. 1, 2017. At that time, all state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards intended for official purposes must be REAL ID-compliant. For more information on implementation of the REAL ID Act, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1207079095443.shtm.

FEMA Reminder- IS800a. Course Retirement: **New**



On April 1, 2008, FEMA posted a reminder that the Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Independent Study Program (ISP) retired the IS 800a. National Response Plan (NRP), an Introduction on March 31, 2008. They will no longer accept exam submissions for IS800.a or IS800. If the Independent Study Office receives exam submissions after the March 31, 2008 deadline, the OpScan answer sheet will be returned to the sender. The IS 800.b, National Response Framework, an Introduction, replaces the IS 800.a and is located at: <http://training.fema.gov>.

ASPR Makes First Playbook Available: **New**

On March 28, 2008, the Clinician's Biosecurity Network (CBN) reported that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) has posted its Hurricane Playbook (*ESF-8 Hurricane Response*) online. It is the first in a series designed to "outline key options and recommended actions to support the HHS Secretary (or designee) in directing and coordinating the HHS Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8, Public Health and Medical Services, response to disasters and other large scale emergencies." The playbooks are organized into five sections: scenario, concept of operations (CONOPS), action steps/issues, pre-scripted mission assignment sub tasks, and essential elements of information (EEI). There is a further delineation by phases of the response, for example, alert, activation, deployment, and deactivation/demobilization of federal ESF #8 assets. The Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and other federal ESF #8 partners specified in the *National Response Framework (NRF)* participated in the playbook's development in an attempt to ensure that the federal capabilities are accurately described and synchronized. It is hoped that state and local planners will use the playbooks to gain an understanding of the ways in which federal resources can be used in support of ESF #8 activities. For more information, please visit <http://www.upmc-cbn.org/>.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Holding Annual National Leadership and Training Conference: **New**



MRC unit leaders (Coordinators and Directors) are invited to participate in the four-day leadership and network development conference

to be held **April 8–11, 2008**, at The Portland Hilton and Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. Join government and nongovernmental organizations, public health, preparedness/response and volunteer management experts, and fellow community-based MRC leaders for this four-day knowledge-sharing, leadership, and training conference. The conference agenda reflects the requests for training and information that we received from both seasoned and newly developed MRC communities and includes an array of topics in public health, preparedness, volunteer management, and other areas of MRC-related interest. This conference is an ideal meet-and-greet opportunity for local MRC leaders to share promising practices and strategies. For more information on the conference or to inquire about attending, please visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Conference/2008>.

Public Health Agencies Test CDC Health Alerting System



On March 10, 2008, Government Health IT reported that the CDC is helping states launch the CDC Alerting Service (CDCAS), an automated, cross-jurisdictional system that will let states reliably broadcast public health alerts to thousands of public health officials. The CDC recently completed a CDCAS pilot project with Michigan and Indiana and the three are now working to fully install CDCAS. Another eight states are meeting with CDC to prepare for implementation. CDCAS is a component of CDC's nationwide Public Health Information Network. "There's a lot of interest within the states in implementing this," said Robb Chapman, CDC program manager for PHIN Communication and Alerting. "And they're very, very eager to get moving." For more information, please visit <http://www.govhealthit.com/online/news/350254-1.html>.

Disasters around the World: **New**



Kilauea Volcano
Credit: AP Photo/Marco Garcia

On March 28, 2008, the Hawaiian Volcanic Observatory reported that the Kilauea Volcano is active at two locations. At the summit, dim incandescence and emission of ash continued and no new explosions have occurred in Halema'uma'u Crater. Sulfur dioxide emission rates and seismic tremor levels continue to be elevated to several times background levels. At the coast, lava continued to flow into the ocean at the Waikupanaha and Ki ocean entries. The east margin of the flow field was active about 75 yards makai of the access road but static elsewhere. For more information, please visit <http://volcano.wr.usgs.gov/hvostatus.php>.

FEMA Announces that the National Response Framework (NRF) is in Effect



On March 21, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that the NRF, successor to the National Response Plan goes into effect on Saturday, March 22, 2008. On January 22, 2008, the NRF was initially released following an extensive process of outreach and coordination between the Department and key stakeholders representing federal, tribal, state and local governments, non-governmental agencies and associations, and the private sector. The NRF was posted in the *Federal Register* for sixty days, as required by law. Now that the timeframe has passed, the NRF goes officially into effect. The NRF focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which the nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities. The NRF also focuses on preparedness and encourages a higher level of readiness across all jurisdictions in a streamlined document that is less bureaucratic and more user-friendly than its predecessor. To read this article in full, please visit [http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Updates/Government_Update/Federal_Emergency_Management_Agency_Announces_that_the_National_Response_Framework_\(NRF\)_Is_in_Effect](http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Updates/Government_Update/Federal_Emergency_Management_Agency_Announces_that_the_National_Response_Framework_(NRF)_Is_in_Effect).

Mobile Field Hospital Exercise Planned in Connecticut



Credit: CDC

On **April 2-6, 2008**, the Bethel Emergency Consortium will be hosting a Mobile Field Hospital Triage Site Functional Exercise. The Consortium will be setting up the 25 bed Mobile Field Hospital component stationed in Danbury as a triage center adjacent to the Bethel Health Care Facility starting on April 2nd. They plan to triage patients through the facility using pandemic influenza case definitions starting on April 5th. In support of this major effort on their part, DEMHS Region 5 Health and Medical Services (ESF-8) Subcommittee will be conducting two ancillary exercises: a Functional Communication and Resource Coordination exercise on April 3rd and a Tabletop exercise addressing the issues surrounding the use of the mobile field hospital and how Unified Command principles can be used to support its operation on April 4th. Additional exercises including an April 3rd Regional Functional Communication and Resource Coordination Exercise, an April 4th Regional Tabletop Exercise, and an April 5th Mobile Field Hospital Triage Site Functional Exercise will take place. If you have questions concerning the exercises, or how you can participate, please contact Charles Brown at 860-727-9874 or cbrown@cadh.org.

Positions Available at YNH-CEPDR

YNH-CEPDR has openings for an Evaluation Specialist and Network Development Specialists. Please contact YNH-CEPDR at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org for more information, or apply online at <http://www.ynhhscares.org/>.

Questions, Comments, Suggestions or to Subscribe

For questions, comments, suggestions or to subscribe to the Preparedness Report, please e-mail us at center@ynhh.org.
www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency

Protecting the Healthcare Workforce



Ensuring that all of your staff know how to protect themselves during a disaster in which they may be exposed to a

chemical, biological or radiological substance is an important factor in their decision to come to work and fulfill their role in a disaster and to your facility's ability to provide ongoing healthcare services. OSHA requires that employees performing certain functions complete training programs that prepare them to don and doff appropriate levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) and recognize when such precautions may be necessary. YNH-CEPDR has developed a comprehensive suite of courses that address these OSHA requirements and provides an effective method to train your staff in proper PPE procedures. Whether your need is for fit testing N95 respirators or operations-level PPE and decontamination training for your decontamination team, YNH-CEPDR has a solution for your organization. For more information, please contact center@ynhh.org.

Regional Practical and Train-the-Trainer Hazmat Courses Bring Area Hospitals Together



Credit:USAID

Eighteen participants from seven hospitals attended a regional training session of **EM220: Best Practices for the Protection of**

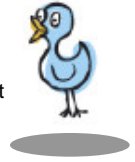
Hospital-Based First Receivers, Operations Level hazmat and decontamination course recently held at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut. Additional offerings were hosted by Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk, Connecticut, as well as Danbury Hospital, Danbury, Connecticut which were open to regional acute care hospital participants. The four-hour course, led by instructors Deborah Smith, David Burich and Samantha Kopp, included a hazardous material identification exercise, practice in donning and doffing of level C personal protective equipment and a decontamination exercise. This was followed by an additional two-hour train-the-trainer session which prepared participants to return to their institutions and train additional staff in the course material. The regional approach allowed participants the opportunity to share ideas and best practices, while learning in a collaborative environment. For information on bringing EM220 to your hospital or region, please contact Deborah Smith at Deborah.Smith@ynhh.org.

Don't Forget to CHIRP!



Flu season is definitely upon us, and YNH-CEPDR wants to remind you to CHIRP.

YNH-CEPDR has developed educational tools suitable for distribution to your employees, volunteers, patients and visitors that describe personal infection control practices that can help keep them flu-free. For more information, please contact center@ynhh.org.



Education and Training Courses



At the request of the Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program of DHHS, the YNH-CEPDR EM 103 w/NIMS and EM 140 w/NIMS courses were reviewed by the NIMS Integration Center. These courses provide a solution to address elements 9 through 11 of the NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems.

These courses meet all of the required objectives defined by the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Guidance, as demonstrated on the YNH-CEPDR NIMS Competency Crosswalk, which may be accessed at

http://www.ynhhs.com/emergency/YNH_CEPDR_NIMS_CompetencyCrosswalk.pdf. **EM 103 w/NIMS and EM 140 w/NIMS were approved as being NIMS compliant for healthcare education and training**

requirements by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. To download a brochure, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/NIMS_Brochure-Final.pdf. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 120: Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers. Information topics include: special threats from specific agents; levels of biological, chemical and radiological protection and isolation; various levels of respiratory protection; principles of decontamination; decontamination procedures; mental health concerns regarding decontamination; and personal safety issues regarding decontamination. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 121: N95 Respirator and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Training for Healthcare Workers. Information topics include: reasons for respirator and personal protective equipment (PPE) use; proper methods for inspecting, donning and doffing a respirator and PPE; the effective use of a respirator and PPE; and common errors made in PPE and N95 respirator use. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 122: N95 Respirator Fit Tester Training. Information topics include: identifying the need to conduct the N95 respirator fit test; conducting a fit test for N95 respirator use; and performing proper inspection and disposal of respirators. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 220: Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers, Operations Level. Information topics include: preparation for healthcare workers, such as emergency department clerks and clinicians, who are assigned to work in the contaminant-free areas but who may need to identify possible risks associated with unannounced patients; preparation for healthcare workers with designated roles for contaminant removal or who will be working in areas that are considered to be contaminated (training includes proper use of protective equipment); and preparation for hazardous materials specialists, including radiation safety officers. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.

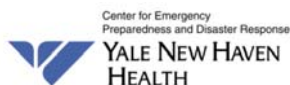
YNH-CEPDR Website Has Changed



As of April 1, 2008, previews for our online course offerings will be available and will include selected screens from each course, a full outline of the course table of contents and three sample quiz questions. Users with approved access to courses will still have full access to complete versions of their assigned courses, as well as their transcripts and certificates. Those interested in enrolling in the current course offerings may do so by visiting <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org>.

We are excited to be bringing our users more diverse offerings, as well as other Website improvements in 2008! For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-5000 or center@ynhh.org.

Programs and Services



YNH-CEPDR is committed to developing and delivering effective and scalable 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 additional information about these services, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
04.08.08 and 04.09.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	2008 Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference <i>Emergency preparedness conference sponsored by Joint Commission Resources (JRC)</i>	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Alexandria, VA For more information, please visit http://www.icrinc.com/5/Programs2008/ .
04.23.08	<i>9am to 1pm</i>	Records Management and Business Continuity: A Cultural Perspective <i>Sponsored by NEDRIX and CAPS</i>	3 Corporate Drive Shelton, CT For more information, please contact Lori Adamo, ladamo@coderedbcs.com , or Tracy Hall, thall@capsbrs.com

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
05.06.08 to 05.08.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Hazardous Materials Officer Training <i>Training conference sponsored by the State of Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Maine Emergency Management Agency</i>	Central Maine Commerce Center Augusta, ME For more information, please visit http://www.smrrc.org/ .
05.13.08 To 05.15.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	WMD Incident Management/Unified Command (MGT 313) <i>Sponsored by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, and conducted by the Texas Engineering and Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute</i>	Radisson Airport Hotel Warwick, RI For more information, please contact Michelle SanSouci, 401-946-9996

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