

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

HHS Declares Public Health Emergency in Iowa and Indiana: **New**



Credit: tvnz.co.nz

On June 16, 2008, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt declared a public health emergency in the flood-stricken states of Iowa and Indiana. The action gives HHS' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS)

Medicare beneficiaries and their health care providers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs. "The flooding in Iowa and Indiana is devastating to each individual and to their communities," Secretary Leavitt said. "This designation will allow HHS to immediately assist our beneficiaries and providers in the areas where hospitals and other health care delivery systems have been disrupted. It will help ensure that medical assistance is provided promptly and effectively." To read this press release in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/06/20080616a.html>.

American Hospital Association (AHA) Opposes State Matching for Hospital Preparedness Program: **New**

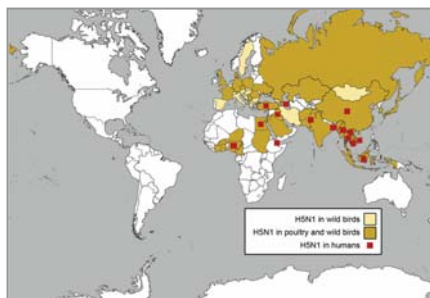


On June 16, 2008, the AHA opposed a proposal that would require states and territories that receive grants from HHS' Hospital Preparedness Program to contribute matching funds beginning fiscal year 2009. In a

comment letter, AHA urged HHS not to finalize the proposal, which it said was inconsistent with Congress' intent and would give states an incentive to shift the matching amount to hospitals and other health care providers. "Already more hospitals are electing not to participate in the Hospital Preparedness Program due to the combination of declining award amounts and increasing requirements and conditions for receiving funding," AHA said. "We are concerned that, if hospitals are now forced to contribute to the state matching amount, the exodus of hospitals from the Hospital Preparedness Program will accelerate, to the detriment of health care system preparedness for natural and manmade disasters." To read the comment letter sent by AHA, please visit <http://www.aha.org/aha/letter/2008/080616-cl-preparedness.pdf>.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of June 19, 2008, is 385 cases and 243 deaths.



Credit: Pandemicflu.gov

On June 23, 2008, the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) reported that the world is far from being well prepared for an influenza pandemic, as stated by leading national and international health officials at a meeting last week in Malaysia. As the H5N1 avian influenza virus continues to thrive in birds, there is no vaccine that can provide sure protection if it evolves into a pandemic strain and governments are paying less attention to the threat, officials said. "We are a long way from being fully prepared," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), according to a Bloomberg News report. She spoke at the International Congress on Infectious Diseases in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. "We do not have a vaccine that will provide universal protection, we do not have surveillance in every country, we do not have control of the virus in animal reservoirs and we have huge gaps in our basic understanding of influenza," Gerberding said. She warned against complacency stemming from either misplaced confidence that a solution is at hand or a belief that nothing can be done to stop a pandemic. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun2308unprepared.html>.

- On June 19, 2008, the Ministry of Health of Indonesia announced two new cases of human H5N1 avian influenza infection. The cases are not linked epidemiologically. The first is a 16-year-old female from South Jakarta, DKI Jakarta Province who developed symptoms on May 7, was hospitalized on May 12 and died on May 14. Investigations into the source of her infection indicate exposure to sick and dead poultry. The second case is a 34-year-old female from Tangerang District, Banten Province who developed symptoms on May 26, was hospitalized on June 2 and died on June 3. Investigations into the source of her infection are ongoing. Of the 135 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 110 have been fatal. For more information on the situation in Indonesia, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_06_19/en/index.html.
- On June 16, 2008, CIDRAP reported that Sanofi Pasteur pledged to give 60 million doses of H5N1 influenza vaccine over three years to WHO for a planned stockpile to help poor countries in the event of an influenza pandemic. Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of French-based Sanofi-Aventis, is the second company to make a specific pledge for the WHO stockpile. A year ago, the United Kingdom's GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) promised to provide 50 million doses of H5N1 vaccine. At two doses per person, the combined total of 110 million doses would be enough to vaccinate 55 million people. "The H5N1 virus is currently circulating in some of the poorest regions of the world and an outbreak of pandemic influenza would most likely hit populations living in areas with limited access to vaccines," said Wayne Pisano, Sanofi Pasteur's president and chief executive officer, in a news release. "This donation of H5N1 vaccine aims to address the needs of those most vulnerable populations." To learn more about the vaccine donation, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun1608sanofi.html>.
- On June 12, 2008, Mike Leavitt, Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the CDC has awarded \$12.9 million for the development of low-cost influenza tests that can detect and differentiate seasonal human influenza viruses from avian influenza within three hours. "The early detection of emerging pandemic influenza is critical to the nation's pandemic response," Secretary Leavitt said. "Early detection will aid in improving patient survival, overall health outcomes, and use of containment measures in the event of an influenza pandemic." Currently, the process for testing for avian influenza A (H5N1) can take up to 24 hours. These awards will support advanced development of laboratory influenza tests. These tests could be performed in a hospital or a commercial laboratory and would expedite the diagnosis of large numbers of patients. As a result, the expanded testing capability will significantly enhance the hospital laboratory-based pandemic and seasonal flu diagnostic capacity in the US. For more information, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/06/20080612a.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 following resources are identified to assist your preparedness activities:

New/Highlighted Resources:

Disaster Recovery and Environmental Health. National Library of Medicine. (Listing of resources for environmental health issues related to emergency response)

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/disasterrecovery.html>

Hospitals Safe From Disasters, Project and Web Site, Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization
<http://www.safehospitals.info/>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Guidance on Workplace Stockpiling of Respirators and Facemasks for Pandemic Influenza
<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/stockpiling-facemasks-respirators.html>

Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB): Emerging Public Health Threats and Quarantine and Isolation
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34144_20080401.pdf

IAEM Discussion Group: United Kingdom (UK) Department of Health 2008 Heat Wave Plan
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084670

Programs and Services



YNH-CEPDR is committed to developing and delivering effective

and scaleable 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.

2008 ICMDDMR Working Panel Meeting: Update



The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) and the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) held a Working Panel



Meeting for the National Center for Integrated Civilian-Military Domestic Disaster Medical Response (ICMDDMR) on Monday June 23, 2008.

Opening remarks were made by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, as well as Admiral Joxel Garcia from HHS and the meeting brought together representatives from the Yale New Haven Health System, USNORTHCOM, the National Guard, the Red Cross, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the integration of civilian and military health services to work collectively during disasters.

Survey of Hospitals Safe from Disasters: New



As part of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009, Hospitals Safe from Disasters, the United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

(UN/ISDR) Secretariat and WHO are conducting a survey to map projects or activities designed to keep health facilities, health systems and health workers safe from disasters. If you or your organization is working on a project or initiative that contributes to this goal, or if you know of other organizations or experts working on these issues, follow the link below to complete a short survey before September 1, 2008. The UN/ISDR will compile and publish the results. http://safehospitals.info/form_June08/questionnaire.htm. For more information on Hospitals Safe from Disasters, please follow this link: <http://safehospitals.info/>

Applicants Should Ask to See Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Identification Badge: New



FEMA inspectors on site
Credit: AP Photo/Seth Wenig

On June 16, 2008, FEMA reported that many inspectors are now in the field verifying damage to homes and businesses caused by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that began May 25. Disaster recovery officials are advising applicants to ask for identification from individuals saying they are damage inspectors. All legitimate inspectors wear FEMA photo identification badges in plain sight. In some parts of the state, contracted Alltech home inspectors wear FEMA photo badges. If an inspector is not wearing a photo identification badge, ask to see it. Individuals who have applied for disaster

assistance can expect to hear from several different inspectors within the coming weeks. To read this press release in full, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43883>.

Disasters around the World: New



Big Sur wildfire in Monterey County
Credit: AP Photo/Paul Sakuma

On June 26, 2008, MSNBC reported that a lightning-sparked wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest that already burned 16 homes was moving closer to the scenic community of Big Sur, where it threatened 500 houses. Meanwhile, the National Weather Service predicted more lightning towards the end of the week, although forecasters did not expect as severe an electrical storm as last weekend, when nearly 8,000 lightning strikes sparked about 800 fires across Northern California. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Monterey County on Wednesday to assess the damage and said he has called in the National Guard to help fight the fires. To learn more about the wildfires in California, please visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25373306/>.

- On June 19, 2008, CNN reported that earthquake-ravaged sections of China's Sichuan province braced for heavy rainstorms that may trigger new landslides. This month marks the start of the annual rainy season, which routinely leads to flooding in rivers in provinces downstream. Landslides are a particular concern because the May 12 earthquake caused steep hillsides to shear away and crash into river valleys below. Many slopes remain unstable and are at high risk of being washed away. For more information, please visit <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/06/19/china.warning/index.html?iref=newssearch>.

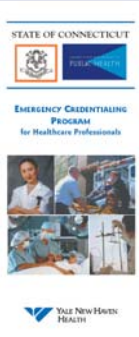
Expect the Unexpected



Credit: AP Photo/Lori Mehmen

Recent tornadoes and record flooding in the Midwest and heat waves across the East Coast have highlighted the need for preparedness. With the unexpected, there is the chance

that a public health crisis will tax the resources of an institution or even an entire region, particularly the human resources involved in the care and welfare of the public. A great way to prepare for potential crises is to become a volunteer in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Health Care Professionals. Physicians, nurses, radiologists, physical therapists, behavioral health specialists, respiratory therapists and many others are needed. This is a program of credentialed hospital disaster volunteers from various disciplines who have offered to respond when a natural or human-made event overwhelms a facility, region or state. Volunteers are given facility and event-specific "just-in-time" training to assist them in their new setting. Volunteers are also covered for liability insurance and worker's compensation. Please visit our website, www.ct-esar-vhp.org to learn more. Enrollment is performed on-line and basic disaster-related education is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Filakovsky, DNP, APRN, Emergency Credentialing Coordinator, (203) 688-4468, or e-mail ecp@ynhh.org.



Free Training for ECP/MRC Volunteers Interested in Working in the Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Mobile Field Hospital (MFH): Update



This 8-hour course provides an introduction and orientation to the medical equipment used in the Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Mobile Field Hospital

(MFH). Topics include working in the austere environment of the MFH and using the medical devices specific to the facility. This course will include didactic and hands-on training. Please visit [TRAIN Connecticut](https://ct.train.org) to register for the training, <https://ct.train.org>. The course ID is 1013171, and the class title is Field Hospital Training. **The Region I training on Wednesday, July 9 is now full. The Region IV training on Saturday July 12 has been moved to Brainard Airport, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT 06114 and currently only 10 spots are available.** Please view the attached PDF file for updated training information, http://www.ct-esar-vhp.org/MFHinvite_2008.pdf.

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.

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 addresses 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.

Positions Available at YNH-CEPDR

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

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
07.08.08	2:00pm EST	Homecare During an Influenza Pandemic <i>Sponsored by HHS</i>	Webinar For more information, please visit http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar.html .

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
07.21.08 to 07.23.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Louisiana Hospital Association Annual Meeting & Summer Conference <i>Sponsored by Louisiana Hospital Association</i>	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach, LA For more information, please visit http://www.lhaonline.org/cde.cfm?event=147717 .
07.28.08 to 07.30.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Combating Bioterrorism/Pandemics: Implementing Policies for Biosecurity <i>Sponsored by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</i>	MIT Cambridge, MA For more information, please visit http://web.mit.edu/mitpep/pi/courses/combating_bioterrorism.html#right .

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