

# THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

## August is National Immunization Awareness Month: **New**



Credit: CDC

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. This observance provides the opportunity to remind the community of the importance of immunization. Make sure that your family and friends are up-to-date on their immunizations. Every August, parents are enrolling children in school, older students are entering college and adults and the healthcare community are preparing for the upcoming flu season. This makes August a particularly good time to focus community attention on the value of immunization. Vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that once routinely killed or harmed tens of thousands of infants, children and adults. The viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable diseases and death still exist and can infect people who are not protected by vaccines. Vaccine-preventable diseases have a costly impact, resulting in doctors' visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths. Sick children can also cause parents to lose time from work. Maintaining high immunization rates protects the entire community by interrupting the transmission of disease causing bacteria or viruses. Please visit <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=11&q=296154&demhsPNavCtr=1> to view the CT DEMHS Advisor.

## Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology Training: **New**

The Public Health Law Program of the CDC has released version three of the *Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology* training materials on CD-ROM. These self-contained training packages were developed by for use by instructors in any jurisdiction in the United States who provide public health preparedness training to front-line practitioners. *Forensic Epidemiology* is designed to help public health and law enforcement agencies strengthen coordination of responses to pandemic influenza and similar threats. Materials include a new CDC-developed case study on pandemic influenza as well as scenarios and training materials from other developers. To download copies of the new materials, please visit <http://www2.cdc.gov/php/phef.asp>

## 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. (Statistics last updated on June 19, 2008, by WHO)



An article published by the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy reviews the extraordinary role coincidence has played in both the detection of infectious disease throughout history. Coincidental events ranging from early attempts at smallpox prevention in 1706, the discovery of penicillin in 1928 and most recently, notification of the international SARS epidemic in 2003, have inspired a large-

scale effort to take coincidence out of outbreak information. Using nontraditional sources of information, to find and verify the earliest possible news of disease outbreaks, publicize them and possibly help contain them continues to show much promise. Once recent entry into the emergency surveillance effort is "HealthMap," a program designed to seek early warnings of outbreaks by analyzing data from outside the public health hierarchy. For information about this and other surveillance tools, please visit

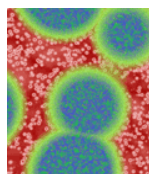
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul2108healthmap.html> .

- Early investigation of a second-generation of the inhaled antiviral zanamivir (Relenza) shows that a single dose was as effective against influenza as a full course of oseltamivir (Tamiflu). The drug, which was developed jointly by Australian and Japanese labs, is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. For further information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/aug0108antiviral-ms.html> .

## EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES®

Credit: CDC

In a recent article from the Emerging Infectious Disease, the emphasis on antiviral drugs and vaccines in pandemic planning needs to be supplemented with stockpiling and planning for deployment of antimicrobial drugs to prevent secondary bacterial pneumonia which has caused substantial illness and death in previous pandemics and epidemics. This need would be very acute in developing countries where vaccines and antivirals may be unavailable or unaffordable. For further information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/8/1187.htm> .



The New Jersey Hospital Association has published a set of pandemic influenza response plan modules, which will assist in assessing patient care, communication, ethics finance, human resources leadership, operations and supplies. They may be accessed by visiting <http://www.panfluplanning.com> .

Credit: NJHA

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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:

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/clearinghouse/index.html>  
<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/>

Emergency Management and Medical Web Sites  
[http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/US\\_DHHS\\_web\\_sites.pdf](http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/US_DHHS_web_sites.pdf)

PPE First Responder Guidance  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2008-132/pdfs/2008-132.pdf>

Hurricane of 1938, New England  
<http://www.archive.org/details/ShockTro1938>

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>

## The Preparedness Report Now Distributed on Bi-Weekly on Thursdays

The Preparedness Report has moved its distribution date to bi-weekly on Thursdays. We hope this new schedule will provide more value to our readers.

## Updated YNH-CEPDR Website:

YNH-CEPDR has redesigned and updated its website. Programs and Services, course flyers, drill and exercise information and more has now been added to this site,  
<http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/>

## Special Interest Terrorism and Clandestine Labs: **New**



A program addressing Special Interest Terrorism and Clandestine Labs will be presented on September 10, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Express in Sac, Maine. This program is co-sponsored by FEMA, CDC and the Central Maine Regional Resource Center for Public Health and Emergency Preparedness and will address such topics as eco-terrorism, illegal production of methamphetamine and biologic agents. It will also address the question "how far can a citizen go before s/he becomes a terrorist. This program targets first responders, emergency management agencies, fire, law enforcement and neighborhood watch groups. A flyer is available at

<http://www.smrrc.org/PDF%20files/Schaubel%20Conference%200908.pdf>

## Preparedness: **New**



Seven years after the harsh realities of the September 11 attacks, New York City has improved the ability of its Police and Fire Departments to operate together. New York joins Washington, Philadelphia and several other large cities with improved interoperability between emergency services and law enforcement. In New York, interoperability has led to law enforcement officers and emergency service agencies to hold joint drills at high-rise buildings, jails and the city's tunnels.

Both agencies continue to support the formation of a national broadband public safety network. To read the entire article, please visit

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/31/nyregion/31comm.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=policy%20ADIOS&st=cse&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/31/nyregion/31comm.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=policy%20ADIOS&st=cse&oref=slogin)

- The Department of Homeland Security recently released its National Emergency Communications Plan. This plan, developed in cooperation with both public and private sector stakeholders, seeks to improve emergency response communications. The plan sets strategic goals and identifies national objectives to enhance governance, training and exercise as well as disaster communication. The goal of this plan is to have 75% of all jurisdictions to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours of an event by 2013. To review the fact sheet, please visit [http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1217534334567.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1217534334567.shtm).



The Washington Post reported that the Department of Homeland Security has advised staff to be on increased alert beginning August 2008 through next summer because of a series of upcoming high-profile events including the Olympics, both major parties' nominating conventions, Election Day and the presidential transition. The move is based on the nation's increased vulnerability to a terrorist attack, not on any specific or credible new threat information. The department is not raising the national color-coded threat warning level from yellow, or elevated, nor is it changing its security posture or operations, a spokesperson said. To read the entire article, please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/28/AR2008072802544.html>.

- Members of the California Institute of Technology are utilizing the recent Los Angeles earthquake as a "teachable moment." The first significant earthquake since the large, destructive 1994 Northridge earthquake has "shaken many Los Angeles residents from the "out of sight, out of mind" attitude which tends to leave individuals less prepared for a large event. The 5.4 earthquake, which occurred on July 29 in the Los Angeles basin, centered the world's attention on Los Angeles and allowed the message related to earthquake preparedness to be spread easily. To read the entire article, please visit <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/inland/la-me-earthquake31-2008jul31.0.1705157.story>.



Apathy related to natural disasters is not limited California. The Disaster News Network reported that a recent poll found 67% of Atlantic and Gulf Coast residents do not have a hurricane survival kit and 64% believe they are not vulnerable to a hurricane or any related tornadoes or flooding. To read the entire article, please visit <http://www.disasternews.net/news/article.php?articleid=3705>

## HHS Convenes Panel to Advise Agency on Mental Health Implications of Public Health Disasters: **NEW**



Credit: NTIS

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has convened an expert panel to develop recommendations for protecting and restoring individual and community mental health during and after a public health emergency. In making the announcement, HHS cited evidence that public health emergencies can exacerbate substance abuse and mental health concerns, including stress, insomnia, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. To view the entire post, please visit <http://www.rwjf.org/publichealth/digest.jsp?id=8136&c=EMC-ND141>.

## Community Pan-Flu Preparedness: A Checklist of Key Legal Issues for Healthcare Providers: **New**



The American Health Lawyers Association (Health Lawyers) the "Community Pan-Flu Preparedness: A Checklist of Key Legal Issues for Healthcare Providers" This checklist is a scalable tool designed to assist providers along the continuum of care as well as the

broader healthcare and public health communities in taking concrete steps to prepare for an influenza pandemic. Without fostering an understanding of the issues, the healthcare sector's preparedness and response efforts will be subject to unnecessary confusion at a time when clarity is needed most. To access the series, please visit [http://www.healthlawyers.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Public Interest and Affairs/Public Information Series/Pan-Flu08.pdf](http://www.healthlawyers.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Public%20Interest%20and%20Affairs/Public%20Information%20Series/Pan-Flu08.pdf)

## Positions Available at YNH-CEPDR

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

## National Preparedness Month This September: **New**



September is National Preparedness Month. Get a Kit, Make a Plan, and Be Ready.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage citizens to take steps to prepare for emergencies. The goal of the program is to increase public and staff awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies

and public health events and to encourage individuals to be proactive as opposed to reactive. Throughout September, Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR), working with our delivery network hospitals, will highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness, promote individual involvement and develop a culture of preparedness. For more information, please contact Eugenie Schwartz at [center@ynhh.org](mailto:center@ynhh.org).

YNH-CEPDR will sponsor a two-day event at each of our System Hospitals.

- September 8-9: Bridgeport Hospital 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
- September 11-12: Greenwich Hospital 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
- September 24-25: Yale-New Haven Hospital 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

## Disasters around the World: **New**



A 5.4 magnitude earthquake struck the Los Angeles area causing minor damage on July 29. The earthquake was also felt in Arizona and Nevada. The last significant earthquake in the area was the 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994. To read the story, please visit <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1982>

Credit: AP



Significant brush fire activity continues to occur in different parts of the United States. For more information, visit the National Interagency Fire Center at [http://www.nifc.gov/fire\\_info/nfn.htm](http://www.nifc.gov/fire_info/nfn.htm)

Credit: AFP

- Areas of both Alaska and Idaho have experienced major flooding episodes in the past week. For more information on these events, please visit the Disaster News Network at <http://www.disasternews.net/news/article.php?articleid=3720> for Alaska, and FEMA at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10367>



Credit: AP

Tropical Storm Edouard, now a tropical depression is moving through central Texas causing flash flood warnings to be issued by a number of cities in its path. The storm had dropped and continues to drop between 2-6.5 inches of rain in the affected areas. Please visit the National Hurricane Center to view the entire advisory at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIAHPCAT5+shtml/061456.shtml>



Credit: Telegraph (UK)

Tropical Storm Kammuri, which is located, approximately 140 NM west-southwest of Hong Kong continues to track westward generating wave heights of 12 feet that will impact Vietnam. For the complete advisory, please visit the Joint Typhoon Warning Center at <https://metocph.nmci.navy.mil/jtwc.php>.

## Groups Urge Diabetics to Prepare for Public Health Emergency



Credit: NDIC

The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) and Eli Lilly and Company have issued a series of recommendations designed to help diabetics prepare for a public health emergency. The document, titled "Weather the Storm: A Diabetes Disaster Plan," suggests that patients boost preparedness by making a list of all medical conditions and prior surgeries and creating a medical history that details diabetes-related complications. To view the entire post, please visit <http://www.rwjf.org/publichealth/digest.jsp?id=8193&c=EMC-ND141>

### 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](mailto:center@ynhh.org). [www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency)

## Hurricanes and Your Medical Facility:



Hurricanes are some of the most powerful storms on earth with the peak of the season for the Atlantic basin from mid August to the end of September. They can bring tremendous devastation to coastal communities and flooding rainfall to inland areas and pose a significant threat to life and property. While we cannot control hurricanes, we can prepare. Every hospital should have a plan for dealing with these potentially catastrophic events.

The National Weather Service's (NWS) National Hurricane Center (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>) in Miami, Florida, and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/cphc/>) in Honolulu, Hawaii, track and issue forecasts for hurricanes and provide basic information on including terminology that hospital planners should be familiar with such as a "hurricane watch" or a "hurricane warning." New NWS products such as the tropical cyclone impacts graphics contain color-coded visuals, which highlight areas, which might be impacted by inland flooding, storm surge, tornadoes and high winds. Understanding the potential impacts allows sufficient time to plan critical patient transport, use of non-ER medical staff for ventilating and suctioning patients if power is lost and many other staffing, medical supply and patient care issues.

If your area is vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes, the best thing you can do is ensure your medical facility has an action plan. A good place to start is talking to the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) at your local NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO). Each WFO has a WCM who can assist the medical community to understand forecast information and help with an action plan. A list of NWS Weather Forecast Offices is found on the web at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/organization.php>.

## Protecting the Healthcare Workforce

Ensuring that all of your staff knows 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](mailto: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\\_CompencyCrosswalk.pdf](http://www.ynhhs.com/emergency/YNH_CEPDR_NIMS_CompencyCrosswalk.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](http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/NIMS_Brochure-Final.pdf). For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or [center@ynhh.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:center@ynhh.org).

## 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](mailto:center@ynhh.org) or visit our web site at <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/index.html>.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
08.15.08 To 08.16.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	South Carolina AHEC: Emergency and Disaster Medicine Summit  <i>Sponsored by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control</i>	Charleston Area Convention Center North Charleston, SC  For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.scahec.net/prepares/summit/#host">http://www.scahec.net/prepares/summit/#host</a> .
8.24.08 to 8.28.08	<i>See Website</i>	Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference 2008  <i>Sponsored by CDC PHIN</i>	<a href="#">Westin Peachtree Plaza</a> Atlanta, GA  For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/phinconference/index.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/phinconference/index.htm</a> .
9.8.08 to 9.9.09	<i>9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</i>	National Preparedness Month Display  <i>Sponsored by Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response</i>	Main Lobby Bridgeport Hospital Bridgeport, CT  For more information, please email <a href="mailto:center@ynhh.org">center@ynhh.org</a> .
9.9.08 to 9.12.08	<i>See Website</i>	ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference  <i>Sponsored by ASTHO and NACCHO</i>	Charleston Area Convention Center North Charleston, SC  Sacramento Convention Center Sacramento, California  For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.astho.org/?template=2008_astho-naccho_meeting.html">http://www.astho.org/?template=2008_astho-naccho_meeting.html</a> .
9.11.08 to 9.12.09	<i>9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</i>	National Preparedness Month Display  <i>Sponsored by Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response</i>	Outside the cafeteria Greenwich Hospital Greenwich, CT  For more information, please email <a href="mailto:center@ynhh.org">center@ynhh.org</a> .
9.24.08 to 9.25.09	<i>9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</i>	National Preparedness Month Display  <i>Sponsored by Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response</i>	Atrium Yale-New Haven Hospital New Haven, CT  For more information, please email <a href="mailto:center@ynhh.org">center@ynhh.org</a> .
11.16.09 to 11.19.08	<i>See Website</i>	International Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and Their Families After Disasters  <i>Sponsored by the College of Public and Community Service, University of Massachusetts at Boston</i>	University of Massachusetts Boston Campus Center Boston, MA  Fore more information, please visit <a href="http://www.cpcs.umb.edu/rscbfd">www.cpcs.umb.edu/rscbfd</a> .

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Preparedness Report Archive: <a href="http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html">http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html</a>			
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**US Department of Health and Human Services 24x7 Operations Center**  
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