

## Office of Emergency Preparedness

## Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

Volume 2, Issue 15

Threat Level

April 8, 2004

## Training & Education

- **YNHHS continues to work with the southern tier hospitals and Hartford Hospital to implement EM 101 statewide.**
- 784 YNHHS hospital physicians have responded to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Survey about the *Training Needs and Preferences for Bioterrorism Preparedness* of the frontline medical community. Physicians who have not yet returned the surveys are asked to do so as soon as possible as the results will help direct the development of future courses in disaster preparedness and response for physicians.
- EM 201, *Preparation, Response, and Communication for Health Care Providers*, is now in draft format and will be piloted through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) research study. EM 201 will be revised as needed and will be available for use by community physician providers and staff in Fall 2004.
- A meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2004 with the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging (CANPFA) to discuss ways to pilot *EM101 for Skilled Nursing Homes* to 140 provider members and 32 business associate members of CANPFA. About 10,000 full- and part-time employees work for CANPFA's member organizations.

## Drills & Exercises

- Bridgeport Hospital held a tabletop exercise on April 7, 2004 to assess response capacity to a SARS threat. Representatives from St. Vincent's Medical Center, Norwalk Hospital, the City of Bridgeport Department of Health, the Stratford Health Department, American Medical Response (AMR), and Central Medical Emergency Dispatch (CMED), and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health participated in the exercise.
- Governor John G. Rowland announced the selection of Connecticut for participation in the April 2005 TOPOFF3 exercise program sponsored by the federal Department of Homeland Security. Connecticut, New Jersey, the Department of Homeland Security, other Federal agencies, and the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will participate in the demonstration of a coordinated local, national, and international response to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attack. The press release issued by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security is attached to this briefing.

*Questions, comments, or suggestions should be forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to [OEPWEB@ynhh.org](mailto:OEPWEB@ynhh.org).*

## Medical Reserve Corps

- A meeting was held by the student representatives of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program from the Yale School of Medicine to generate interest in developing community presentations as they relate to promoting public health in the community. These presentations will be developed and implemented over the summer months.

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## Regional Planning

- Members of Preparedness Planning Region 10 (Lawrence & Memorial, William W. Backus, and Middlesex Memorial Hospitals) met to discuss development of a regional communications plan for the three hospitals given the critical nature of hospital communications during an emergency. The regional communications plan will be shared with the other southern tier regions when available.
- Members of Preparedness Planning Region 4 (Danbury and New Milford Hospitals) met to discuss the development of a mutual aid memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two hospitals. This MOU will address the loan of medical personnel, pharmaceuticals, supplies, and equipment, or assistance with emergency hospital evacuation, including accepting transferred patients. The MOU will be shared with the other southern tier regions when available.
- On March 31, 2004, Stamford Hospital conducted a functional hospital exercise involving an Ethylene Oxide Cylinder leak in the hospital's basement central sterile area. The main objectives of the drill were to evaluate emergency operations center (EOC) activation/operations, to test a new Emergency Department disaster triage (red bag procedure) and to test hospital evacuation procedures. OEP staff provided assistance with evaluation of the exercise.

## Chemical Emergency Preparedness

- Dr. Mark Russi, Yale-New Haven Hospital Co-Director of Occupational Health, gave a presentation on *Organizing Acute Care Hospital Responses to Chemical Emergencies* to the Southern Connecticut Hospital Bioterrorism Planning Committee. Recommendations from the Yale New Haven Health System Clinical Advisory Committee (SCAC) Chemical/Toxicology Subcommittee include stockpiling antidotes, education and training for hospital personnel, decontamination, and personnel surge capacity. The presentation is attached to this briefing and more information will be provided as the hospital chemical response plan is developed.

## Emergency Credentialing

- An initial volunteer practitioner database of over 900 physicians representing 9 acute care hospitals was distributed to 24 participating hospitals on April 1, 2004. Two additional hospitals have signed the participating agreement since April 1, 2004. Participating hospitals are encouraged to complete their volunteer recruitment process and submit volunteer data to the Yale-New Haven Hospital Physician Support Services Department as soon as possible.



Regional Planning meeting

## Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Health Threats

### **Avian Influenza A (H7)**

- The first human case of avian influenza A (H7) in British Columbia occurred in mid-March with an individual involved in the culling of infected birds. On April 2, 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed by Health Canada of a second poultry worker in British Columbia identified with avian influenza A (H7). Both patients were treated with oseltamavir (an antiviral drug active against influenza A viruses) and in both cases, symptoms resolved.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
MASH MEETING	4/12/04	3:30 PM	CHA
BT ADVISORY COMM	4/19/04	1:00 PM	CHA
CHERET	4/23/04	8:30 AM	CHA

## ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
CRISIS AND RISK COMMUNICATION <a href="http://www.albany.edu/sph/coned/t2b2">HTTP://WWW.ALBANY.EDU/SPH/CONED/T2B2</a>	4/15/04	9:00 AM ET	SATELLITE BROADCAST
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT/UNIFIED COMMAND FOR WMD/TERRORISM INCIDENTS (MGT-313) <a href="mailto:GSALLYN@WESTHARTFORD.ORG">GSALLYN@WESTHARTFORD.ORG</a>	4/20-23/04	8:00 AM	CT FIRE ACADEMY
FULL-SCALE REGIONAL EXERCISE (GH EVACUATION)	4/20/04	AM	GREENWICH HOSPITAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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