

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 17

Threat Level

April 23, 2004

Training & Education

- **Over 9,000 health care personnel have completed EM 101 training, bringing the total percentage trained thus far to 83%. YNHHS continues to work with the southern tier hospitals and Hartford Hospital to expand the program statewide.**
- EM 101 was presented to several urgent care centers during the week of April 19, 2004. The goal of these presentations was to discuss the urgent care center role in emergency preparedness education and training module customization. An EM 101 Urgent Care Center version will be developed based on input derived from these meetings.
- Dr. Joseph Albanese, state biosimetrist, facilitated the training of laboratory staff at Johnson Memorial Hospital on lymphocyte preparation for biosimetry on April 19, 2004. Please contact Dr. Albanese at (203) 688-3316 to schedule an introduction at your facility.
- EM 101 was presented to over 100 extended care administrators affiliated with the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF) on April 15, 2004.

Laboratory Response Network

- A day-long statewide laboratory conference has been scheduled for June 3, 2004 at CHA in Wallingford. Presentations will include laboratory response to biological, chemical, and radiological threats, syndromic surveillance, and biodetection systems. Please contact Elaine Forte, Laboratory Program Advisor, for more information at (203) 688-3391.

Drills & Exercises

- A drill was conducted on April 22, 2004 at Greenwich Hospital that included representatives from the Greenwich Fire Department, Greenwich Emergency Medical Services, and Stamford Hospital. The drill focused on the evacuation of a patient unit and tested the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) and the communication systems.
- A communications drill for the acute care hospitals is scheduled for May 15, 2004 with participation from both southern and northern tier hospitals, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC). Objectives of this exercise include communication activation and interoperability among participating support agencies, activation and coordination of resources for emergency support functions, and stockpile activation, receipt, delivery, and distribution process review.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Communication
- 2 Medical Reserve Corps
- 3 Stockpile Coordination
- 3 Calendar of Events

Communication

- The policy and procedure for MEDSAT phone utilization at the acute care hospitals is complete and the final MEDSAT usage guidelines are attached to this briefing. A MEDSAT System Train-the-Trainer educational session is scheduled for April 28, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. at CHA. In addition, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health is initiating weekly hospital-wide tests of the MEDSAT system (i.e., roll call). The roll call memo and roll call list are also attached to this briefing.
- YNHHS developed an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality grant to set up a comprehensive communication system that will, if funded, provide community medical providers with access to the same level of emergency preparedness alerts and educational materials as staff based in acute care hospitals. The grant was submitted on April 22, 2004.

Coordination of patient evacuation response



Medical Reserve Corps

- YNHHS developed a Corporation for National and Community Service grant to identify and recruit qualified individuals age 55 years old and over to provide supportive services to acute care hospitals during a large-scale disaster event. The grant was submitted on April 23, 2004. If funded, the grant will augment the Medical Reserve Corps program.
- The Medical Reserve Corps Program was presented to Quinebaug Valley Community College students on April 20, 2004 and response to the recruitment for volunteer program was favorable.

Stockpile Coordination

CT DHS Memorandum of Understanding regarding First Responder Stockpiles

- A follow-up from DHS to the hospital CEOs regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for pre-hospital pharmaceutical stockpiling is forthcoming.

CT DPH MOA regarding the Strategic National Stockpile

- Acute Care Hospitals with questions or concerns who have not yet contacted Patrick Schmincke, Medical Stockpile Coordinator, are requested to do so at (203) 688-9580. Identified issues are brought to the attention of DPH.

Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Health Threats

Influenza

- During the week of April 3-10, 2004, patient visits remained below the national baseline, and mortality due to pneumonia and influenza remained below the epidemic threshold.

SARS

- In collaboration with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University of Connecticut Department of Community Medicine and Healthcare is sponsoring a program entitled *SARS in the City: The Toronto Experience* on May 10, 2004 from 9:00 -10:30 a.m. at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Registration is required. For further information, please contact the Graduate Program in Public Health at (860) 679-1510 or mph@nso.uchc.edu.

Surveillance

- A luncheon presentation on Cerner's First Sentry surveillance system has been scheduled for May 21, 2004, at 11:30 a.m. at CHA. Please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 if interested in attending.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
JOINT HOSP PLANNING	4/28/04	3:00 PM	BH CONF RM
STATE OF CT BT ADVISORY COMM MTG	4/29/04	3:00 PM	CHA
DHS-ODP MTG	4/30/04	9:00 AM	DPS
CHERET	5/12/04	8:30 AM	CHA
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT COMM	5/13/04	11:30 AM	CHA
STATEWIDE TOWN HALL MTG	6/10/04	8:30 AM	CHA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MEDSAT SYSTEM TRAIN-THE-TRAINER EDUCATIONAL SESSION	4/28/04	1:30 PM	CHA
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: CONCEPTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TERRORIST INCIDENTS (MGT-390) (860) 566-1133	5/3/04	8:00 AM	DPS DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY BRINARD FIELD, HARTFORD
SMALLPOX VACCINATOR TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG MONICA RAK, RN (860) 509-7900	5/4/04	8:45 AM	NEW HAVEN FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY
SARS IN THE CITY: THE TORONTO EXPERIENCE (860) 679-1510 MPH@NSO.UCHC.EDU	5/10/04	9:00 AM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER
VISUAL PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DATA (860) 679-1527	5/10, 17, 27 & 6/4/04	5:30 PM	COMMUNITY MEDICINE COMPUTER LAB, UCONN HEALTH CENTER
INTRODUCTION TO SPSS (860) 679-1527	5/12, 19, 26 & 6/2/04	5:30 PM	COMMUNITY MEDICINE COMPUTER LAB, UCONN HEALTH CENTER

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