

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 18

Threat Level

April 30, 2004

Training & Education

- **Over 9,000 YNHHS health care personnel have completed EM 101 training, bringing the total percentage trained thus far to 84%. YNHHS continues to work with the southern tier hospitals and Hartford Hospital to expand the program statewide.**
- An EM 101 Urgent Care Center version is in development based on input derived from meetings with urgent care center staff and training is set to begin in mid-May 2004.
- Educational tools on *Emergency Management and the Mental Health of the Healthcare Workforce* are being developed in collaboration with the Connecticut Bioterrorism Preparedness Behavioral Health Collaborative.

Bed Status Reporting

- Earlier this month, letters were sent to each of the hospital chief executive officers from the Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence regarding the daily bed count database. In addition to the letter, a graph depicting the hospitals' licensed versus bed availability statistics was inadvertently included. This all-inclusive format runs counter to the original intent of maintaining confidentiality of this information. Since this occurrence, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has been in contact with the Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence to rectify this issue and to clarify that in the future, any reports of hospital bed availability statistics will be reported individually to each hospital. In addition, no reports will be sent out to the southern tier hospitals without prior approval from the Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence.

Universal Respiratory Etiquette

- The standards council of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which sets fire safety standards used in 38 states, announced amendments to the NFPA Life Safety Code effective May 5, 2004 that will permit hospitals and other health care facilities to install alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers in their corridors. The American Hospital Association (AHA) and the American Society for Healthcare Engineers (ASHE) have been advocating changes to current fire codes, which have restricted hospitals' use and storage of alcohol-based hand-rubs, despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that the hand-rubs be used to combat hospital-acquired infections. The NFPA approved the fire code revisions based on a fire modeling study commissioned by ASHE showing the dispensers can be installed safely as long as they hold no more than 1.2 liters and are not installed too closely together or near electrical outlets (www.ahanews.com).

Drills & Exercises

- Medical Reserve Corps volunteers from the Yale University School of Medicine conducted a communications drill on April 22, 2004. Approximately 30% of the volunteers responded to the simulation within the first 15 minutes of the exercise. Additional drills will be conducted to determine time frames of response rather than requiring volunteers to physically report to a given location.
- Connecticut hospitals will be involved in the TOPOFF3 state, national, and international drill scheduled for April 18-22, 2005. Connecticut, New Jersey, the United Kingdom, and Canada will be involved in the exercise. Some of the goals to be implemented in Connecticut include testing the functionality of regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC), testing the functionality of mobile mass decontamination units, testing the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) consistency, and testing the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) incident response and recovery plans. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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

Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Health Threats

SARS

- The Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH) reported one new possible case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Beijing on April 28, 2004, bringing the total to nine possible cases. This new possible case was in a person known to have been in close contact with the 20-year old nurse who was previously reported as a "confirmed" case by the Chinese MOH. Two additional cases previously listed as "suspect" now meet the MOH criteria for "confirmed" cases.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending a greater index of suspicion for SARS in patients who 1) require hospitalization for radiographically confirmed pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and 2) who have a history of travel to mainland China (or close contact with an ill person with a history of recent travel to mainland China) in the 10 days before onset of symptoms.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the following updated guidance regarding SARS: *Interim Guidance: Air Medical Transport for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Patients*; updated guidance intended to assist air medical transport (AMT) service providers in using specialized and/or specially equipped aircraft to transport SARS patients while ensuring the safety of patients and transport personnel. This document can be downloaded from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/airpersonnel.htm>.

World Trade Center Registry

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has disseminated a letter to New York City area clinicians encouraging their patients to join the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry. The registry is being developed by the New York City Department of Health and Hygiene (DOHMH) in partnership with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Information is being collected on people most directly exposed to the WTC collapse on September 11, 2001, and also on those involved in the rescue, recovery, and cleanup efforts to track the long-term physical and mental health effects of 9/11/01. The letter is attached to this briefing.

New OEP Staff

- Please welcome Darrian Fitzpatrick as MaSH Coordinator to OEP.

Statewide Town Hall Meeting

- A statewide Town Hall meeting for acute care hospitals and their state emergency planning partners is scheduled for early June 2004. The keynote speaker will be Eric Noji, MD, MPH, Special Advisor, Surgeon General and the White House, Disaster Threats.

Stockpile Coordination

- Patrick Schmincke, Medical Stockpile Coordinator, is in the process of coordinating with hospital point of contacts (POCs) to verify the number of employees per facility. This data will be used in determining facility stockpiling recommendations specific to hospital staff and their immediate families. Questions or concerns can be directed to Patrick Schmincke, Medical Stockpile Coordinator, at (203) 688-9580.



Laboratory Response Network

- Dr. Joseph Albanese, state biodosimetrist, is setting up the recently delivered Metaphase Finder, an automated imaging analysis system to expedite identification of cells damaged by radiation toxicity. Qualified laboratory technologists will be trained to assist in the biodosimetry lab as part of the Emergency Credentialing Program.
- 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.

Communication

- MEDSAT satellite phone training for the acute care hospitals was held on April 28, 2004 at the Connecticut Hospital Association. Additional hospital training will be scheduled shortly.

Emergency Credentialing System

- Twenty-eight of the 32 acute care hospitals have signed participating hospital agreements and over 950 physicians have indicated a willingness to volunteer during an emergency.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
CHERET	5/12/04	8:30 AM	CHA
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT COMM	5/13/04	8:30 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>
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
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RESPONSE AWARENESS TRAINING (800) 449-6742 WWW.KEENE.EDU/CONTED/HOMELAND	5/26 OR 5/28/04	8:30 AM	COAST GUARD ACADEMY NEW LONDON
SECOND ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE (800) 449-6742 WWW.KEENE.EDU/CONTED/HOMELAND	5/27/04	8:30 AM	COAST GUARD ACADEMY NEW LONDON
COMPETENT CRISIS RESPONSE: CONSIDERING CULTURE AND RACE SCOTT SELIG/OEP (203) 688-2587	5/27/04	9:00 AM	KELLER AUDITORIUM UCONN HEALTH CENTER
TERRORISM: EXPLORING THE CENTRALITY OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SEQUELAE SCOTT SELIG/OEP (203) 688-2587	5/27/04	1:00 PM	KELLER AUDITORIUM UCONN HEALTH CENTER