

## Office of Emergency Preparedness

## Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

Volume 2, Issue 19

Threat Level

May 7, 2004

### Training & Education

- On April 28, 2004, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health provided an introductory training session on the MedSat Satellite Telephone System. MedSat is an emergency satellite-based communications system that provides Connecticut's 32 acute care hospitals with reliable telephone and two-way radio communication in the event of an emergency. Ten of the southern tier hospitals were represented at this training session. A detailed curriculum is being developed to train remaining southern tier hospital staff regarding how and when to utilize the system. For more information, please contact Richard Kleindienst, Sr., at (203) 688-3912 or Valerie Applebaum at (203) 688-2659.
- EM 101 versions for home health, urgent care centers, skilled nursing facilities, and community health centers will be available within two weeks, and training sessions for these health care entities have been scheduled for the end of May.

### Laboratory Response Network

- Dr. Joseph Albanese, state biodosimetrist, facilitated the training of laboratory staff at Milford Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital and Sharon Hospital on lymphocyte preparations for biodosimetry on May 3, 4, 7, 2004. Please contact Dr. Albanese at (203) 688-3316 to schedule training at your facility.

### 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.

### Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Health Threats

**SARS**

- A joint World Health Organization (WHO)-Chinese team continues to investigate the source of the current outbreak, first reported on April 22, 2004, at the National Institute of Virology in Beijing. The institute is known to have conducted experiments using the live SARS coronavirus during February and March. Two researchers at the institute developed SARS in late March and mid-April although neither is known to have conducted research using the live virus, suggesting some other source of infection within the laboratory or elsewhere. WHO has strongly recommended that work using the live SARS virus be conducted in biosafety level 3 facilities in order to minimize the risk of laboratory-acquired infections.
- Canada is now distributing SARS Health Alert Notices (i.e., health information cards about SARS) at major ports of entry to arriving passengers from China. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not initiated similar action but is reportedly prepared to do so immediately if there is an increase in SARS activity. CDC continues to closely monitor the SARS situation in China and indicates that it will provide additional information on their website as it becomes available.

**Influenza**

- The *WHO consultation on priority public health interventions before and during an influenza pandemic* is available for download from the World Health Organization website at [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/final.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/final.pdf).

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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](mailto:OEPWEB@ynhh.org).

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- 2 Current Disaster & Emergency Management Literature
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**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 COMMITTEE	5/13/04	8:30 AM	CHA
MASH MTG	5/14/04	9:00 AM	CHA
BT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	5/17/04	1:00 PM	CHA
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	5/19/04	8:00 AM	OEP
STATEWIDE LABORATORY CONFERENCE	6/3/04	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>
SARS IN THE CITY: THE TORONTO EXPERIENCE (860) 679-1510 <a href="mailto:MPH@NSO.UCHC.EDU">MPH@NSO.UCHC.EDU</a>	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 <a href="http://WWW.KEENE.EDU/CONTEDED/HOMELAND">WWW.KEENE.EDU/CONTEDED/HOMELAND</a>	5/26 OR 5/28/04	8:30 AM	COAST GUARD ACADEMY NEW LONDON
SECOND ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE (800) 449-6742 <a href="http://WWW.KEENE.EDU/CONTEDED/HOMELAND">WWW.KEENE.EDU/CONTEDED/HOMELAND</a>	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

**CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE**

 JASLOW D, UFBERG J, MARSH RJ. [PRIMARY INJURY PREVENTION IN AN URBAN EMS SYSTEM](#). J EMERG MED 2003; 25(2): 167-170.

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 PELEG K, MICHAELSON M, SHAPIRA SC, AHARONSON-DANIEL L. [PRINCIPLES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN DISASTERS](#). ADV REN REPLACE THER 2003; 10(2): 117-121.

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