

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 28

Threat Level

July 9, 2004

Due to the upcoming Democratic National Convention scheduled for July 26-29, 2004 in Boston and the Republican National Convention scheduled for August 30-September 2, 2004 in New York City, southern tier hospitals are encouraged to review their hazard vulnerability assessment checklists as a precautionary measure. U. S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge's July 8th update on threat and efforts to ramp up security can be viewed at: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

Training & Education

- Currently 9,634 healthcare personnel have completed EM 101. YNHHS continues to work with the southern tier hospitals, Hartford Hospital, and other healthcare delivery agencies such as nursing homes, home health, and others to expand the program statewide.
- Two hundred twenty-seven first year residents at Yale-New Haven Hospital were trained on EM 101 during the resident orientation sessions held for the following specialty areas: Surgery, Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Family Medicine.
- The Connecticut State Medical Society Committee on Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction has endorsed EM 101 and the YNHHS OEP curriculum development plan, and will support YNHHS OEP efforts to train their member physicians.

Drills & Exercises

- A tabletop exercise has been scheduled for Yale-New Haven Hospital (Y-NHH) on July 28, 2004. OEP will facilitate the exercise and individuals will be invited to participate through Y-NHH administration.

JCAHO Satellite Network

- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) conducted visits to Greenwich, Bridgeport, and Yale-New Haven Hospitals to shoot footage to be included in a Joint Commission satellite program on *Emergency Management: Developing Scaleable Strategies* scheduled for August 12, 2004. The program will highlight initiatives taken by YNHHS to improve emergency preparedness on a hospital and system level in coordination with community and state partners

Stockpile Coordination

- Southern tier hospital contracts with the YNHHS Center of Excellence include a \$6,000 appropriation to develop or enhance each facility's emergency cache of pharmaceuticals. Recommendations for a coordinated statewide pharmaceutical stockpile approach will be disseminated shortly. The Medical Stockpile Coordinator will work with each facility to ensure that the August 31, 2004 purchase commitment deadline is met.

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

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Syndromic Surveillance

- A memo from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health regarding participation in a statewide ED Syndromic Surveillance System will be sent to the acute care hospital Chief Executive Officers, ED Directors, Hospital Epidemiologists, Chief Information Officers and Hospital Disaster Coordinators. The YNHHS Center of Excellence encourages hospitals that collect ED Chief Complaint data electronically to participate in this initiative. Please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org if you have questions or would like more information.

Smallpox Planning Template

- The *Hospital Post-Event Smallpox Mass Vaccination Template* was distributed and discussed at this week's southern tier hospital meeting. The template will be sent to each acute care hospital CEO early next week with a letter from Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin encouraging their compliance with completing the template and developing their facility's smallpox vaccination plan. A target completion date of August 19, 2004 has been set for submission of completed templates to the respective Centers of Excellence. Please contact Christopher Cannon at (203) 688-3224 or christopher.cannon@ynhh.org with any questions.

Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Health Threats

SARS

- On July 1, 2004, the Ministry of Health of China released a status report on the investigation related to the SARS outbreak in Beijing and Anhui Province over two months ago. Based on the information made available, the World Health Organization concluded the following:
 - The National Institute of Virology was the most likely source of the outbreak;
 - At least 4 individuals may have been infected with SARS at the Institute (these include the two laboratory workers reported in April plus two additional laboratory workers who suffered from SARS-like illnesses in early February 2004); and
 - The use of inactivated SARS coronavirus (which was not tested to determine the effectiveness of the inactivation) in a general laboratory at the Institute appears the most likely cause of the outbreak.

WHO recommended that further work is needed to verify the effectiveness of the method used to inactivate the live SARS virus and indicated that other possible explanations of the cause of the outbreak cannot be fully excluded.

CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

DISASTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:
(WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG)

WALDEN J, KAPLAN EH. ESTIMATING TIME AND SIZE OF BIOTERROR ATTACK. EMERG INFECT DIS [SERIAL ON THE INTERNET]. 2004 JUL [DATE CITED]. AVAILABLE FROM: [HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCIDOD/EID/VOL10NO7/03-0632.HTM](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCIDOD/EID/VOL10NO7/03-0632.HTM)

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
CT DPH MONTHLY BT MEETING	7/19/04	1:00 PM	CHA
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	7/29/04	10:00 AM	OEP
STATE DPH QUARTERLY MEETING	7/29/04	3:00 PM	CHA

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
UNDERSTANDING AIR QUALITY IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM	7/12/04	5:30 PM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER CLASSROOM Q
RADIATION PREPAREDNESS	7/13/04	5:00 PM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER LINK ROOM
UNDERSTANDING AIR QUALITY IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM	7/14/04	5:30 PM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER CLASSROOM Q
NACCHO ANNUAL 2004 CONFERENCE	7/14-16/04		ST. PAUL, MN
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION MASS CASUALTY PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION ASSISTANT CHIEF GARY ALLYN GSALLYN@WESTHARDFORD.ORG (860) 570-3807	7/15-17/04	8:30 AM	CT FIRE ACADEMY
UNDERSTANDING AIR QUALITY IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM	7/19/04	5:30 PM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER CLASSROOM Q
RADIATION PREPAREDNESS	7/20/04	5:00 PM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER LINK ROOM
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) TRAIN-THE-TRAINER TRAINING DONNA.CAMPBELL@UCONN.EDU (860) 566-1133	8/7-8/04	8:00 AM	CANTON, CT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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