

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

1 Church Street, 5th Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · OEPWEB@ynhh.org

ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 30

Threat Level

July 22, 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.

Suspicious Phone Calls

- The Connecticut Division of Homeland Security has alerted the Connecticut Department of Public Health that some hospitals in surrounding states have received suspicious phone calls requesting detailed information on hospital security, as well as where pharmaceuticals deployed from the Strategic National Stockpile would be received at their institution. Please advise your staff of this situation and that this type of information should not be shared over the phone unless the individual making the request is known to them. If your hospital receives a call like this, or has already received such a call, please contact the Connecticut Division of Homeland Security at (866) 457-8477.

ED Syndromic Surveillance

- A memo from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health regarding participation in a statewide ED Syndromic Surveillance System has been 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 and return the completed participation form to the Department of Public Health as soon as possible. Please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org if you have questions or would like more information.

CT DPH Prepares for Democratic Convention

Commissioner of Public Health J. Robert Galvin has sent a memo to Connecticut's acute care hospitals describing the preparations for the Democratic National Convention. "Although there has not been any special request made by Massachusetts authorities as it relates to public health assistance from Connecticut, the Department of Public Health is taking several steps to assure that any such request can be responded to in a timely an efficient manner," Commissioner Galvin wrote in the July 20, 2004 memo. These steps include:

Bed Status Reporting

- **DPH will require bed status reporting twice a day from July 23, 2004 (new date) through July 31, 2004. Bed reporting will need to be done by 7 a.m. and again by 7 p.m. each day. For more information, contact Richard Kleindienst at (203) 688-3912 or (203) 650-5973 (cell).**

MedSat Satellite Radio System

- **The Connecticut Department of Public Health will be conducting daily tests of the MedSat satellite radio system beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 23, 2004 (new date) and concluding on Saturday July 31, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. The testing will follow the existing procedure, in alphabetical order beginning with the southern tier followed by the northern tier hospitals. Weekly testing will resume on Thursday August 5, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. Your participation in both the daily and weekly testing process is absolutely critical to the State of Connecticut's health care system overall state of readiness.**
- Hospitals that have not completed the inventory control sheet of the MedSat satellite equipment are requested to complete that process as soon as possible. Please forward the bar code numbers and additional information required to David Hunt, CT DPH Communications Unit. Attached is a memo from Mr. Hunt to MedSat coordinators on the importance of participating fully in this joint venture between the hospitals and DPH.

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Signing of BioShield Legislation

- On July 21, 2004 President Bush signed into law Project BioShield, which provides new tools to improve medical countermeasures protecting Americans against a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) attack. Project BioShield is a comprehensive effort to develop and make available modern, effective drugs and vaccines to protect against attack by CBRN weapons. The President first proposed Project BioShield in his 2003 State of the Union address and Congress approved it last week. "The \$6 billion investment over the next 10 years will allow us to develop and make available modern, effective drugs and vaccines to protect against attack by biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological agents," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy F. Thompson.

A fact sheet is available at
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2004pres/20040721b.html>

Stockpile Coordination

- The Connecticut Department of Public Health has drafted a pharmaceutical stockpile tool has to guide acute care hospitals in purchasing the appropriate medications with the \$6,000 each hospital is scheduled to receive as part of the Center of Excellence/Hospital Contracts. The tool is expected to be distributed to the acute care hospitals by the end of July.

Hospital Smallpox Vaccination Template

- The Hospital Smallpox Vaccination Template has been sent to each acute care hospital CEO accompanied by a letter from Commissioner Galvin. The plan outlines the process to vaccinate hospital personnel and patients within 48 hours. The completed template and appendices A through D should be sent by Aug. 19, 2004 to Christopher Cannon, OEP, One Church St., 5th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510.

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

CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

DISASTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:
WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG

KOLAITIS G, KOTSPOULOS J, TSIANTIS J, HARITAKI S, RIGIZOU F, ZACHARAKI L, RIGA E, AUGOUSTATOU A, BIMBOU A, KANARI N, LIAKOPOULOU M, KATERELOS P. POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS REACTIONS AMONG CHILDREN FOLLOWING THE ATHENS EARTHQUAKE OF SEPTEMBER 1999. EUR CHILD ADOLESC PSYCHIATRY **2003; 12(6):273-80.**
[HTTP://WWW.SPRINGERLINK.COM/MEDIA/59DAMVLUTPOK7QXQMXFR/CONTRIBUTIONS/G/Y/L/A/GYLAP6BGW6PA9W55.PDF](http://WWW.SPRINGERLINK.COM/MEDIA/59DAMVLUTPOK7QXQMXFR/CONTRIBUTIONS/G/Y/L/A/GYLAP6BGW6PA9W55.PDF)

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MENTAL HEALTH COMM	7/27/04	10:00 AM	DUPONT BOARDROOM BH
Y-NHH TABLETOP	7/28/04	1:00 PM	GRACE LOUNGE A & B
OEP EXEC COMM	7/29/04	10:00 AM	1 CHURCH ST
STATE DPH QUARTERLY MTG	7/29/04	3:00 PM	CHA
SEPC COMM	8/04/04	8:30 AM	ED CONF ROOM BH

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION			
EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
RECOGNITION OF ILLNESS ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMICAL EXPOSURE FOR MORE INFORMATION: HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/CHEMICAL-EXP/DEFAULT.ASP	8/5/04	12:00 PM	CDC WEBCAST
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:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG
JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG
SCOTT SELIG	EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2587	SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG
RICHARD KLEINDIENST, SR.	MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS COORDINATOR	(203) 688-3912	RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG
MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2563	MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG
PATRICK SCHMINCKE	MEDICAL STOCKPILE COORDINATOR	(203) 688-9580	PATRICK.SCHMINCKE@YNHH.ORG
DARRIAN FITZPATRICK	MASH COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2577	DARRIAN.FITZPATRICK@YNHH.ORG