

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 31

Threat Level

July 30, 2004

Due to the Democratic National Convention held this week 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. Thank you for your support of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's request for twice daily bed capacity reporting as well as daily MEDSAT phone testing.

Training & Education

- Currently 12,933 healthcare personnel have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts. 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.
- The YNHHS OEP participated in the First National Congress on Public Health Readiness sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Medical Association (AMA). Conference participants consisted of leaders and decision-makers from medicine, public health, and academia who discussed strengthening linkages between clinical healthcare and public health, sharing "best practices" in planning, preparedness, response, and recovery to terrorism and naturally occurring health threats, and developing and strengthening relationships between national, state, and local medical and public health organizations, associations, and communities.
- Connecticut's inaugural National Disaster Life Support training program will be held from September 28 – October 1, 2004. The program will include Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS), Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS), and the ADLS Instructor course. Physicians, nurses, and paramedics will be selected from hospitals and EMS agencies throughout the state. The entire cost of this 4-day program will be funded by a grant from HRSA, and brochures will be distributed during the next few weeks. For additional information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.

Drills & Exercises

- A tabletop drill was conducted with participation from senior management at Yale-New Haven Hospital on Wednesday, July 28, 2004. The exercise provided an opportunity to test the hospital's response to a SARS outbreak and to review individual and departmental responses based on the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS). Overall results were positive and reinforced the group's strengths with regard to response and communications. The drill also brought to light areas for refinement and review. A critique of the exercise is scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 5:00 pm in the Grace Building Lounge.

CDC Satellite Broadcast

- The South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness satellite broadcast of *Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of Toxic Industrial Chemicals and Toxic Industrial Materials* sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and scheduled for August 12, 2004 at 1:00 PM Eastern can be viewed at the YNHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness conference room at 1 Church Street, 5th Floor, New Haven. Attendance is limited to 20 participants. If interested in attending, please contact Scott Selig at scott.selig@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2587.

Questions, comments or suggestions should be
Forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or
by e-mail to:
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Syndromic Surveillance

- A letter from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health regarding participation in a statewide ED Syndromic Surveillance System was 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 Smallpox Vaccination Template* has been sent to each acute care hospital CEO accompanied by a letter from State of Connecticut Department of Public Health 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 August 19, 2004 to Christopher Cannon, OEP, 1 Church Street, 5th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510.

Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Health Threats

Avian Influenza

- The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to be concerned by the simultaneous outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in several Asian countries. According to WHO, outbreaks thus far remain restricted to poultry populations but they nevertheless increase the chances of virus transmission and human infection of the disease, as well as the possible emergence of a new influenza virus strain capable of sparking a global pandemic. The acute care hospitals will begin working with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health on the development of a pandemic influenza response plan in the Fall of 2004.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SEPC	8/4/04	8:30 AM	BH EDU CONF RM

CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

DISASTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG

SIEGEL C, WANDERLING J, LASKA E. COPING WITH DISASTERS: ESTIMATION OF ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SECTOR TO MEET EXTENDED SERVICE DEMANDS. *J MENT HEALTH POLICY ECON* 2004; 7(1): 29-35.

EXCERPT AVAILABLE FROM: [HTTP://WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG/WEEK/2004/040726.HTM](http://WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG/WEEK/2004/040726.HTM).

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ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
RECOGNITION OF ILLNESS ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMICAL EXPOSURE HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/CHEMICAL-EXP/DEFAULT.ASP	8/5/04	12:00 PM EASTER	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
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT UNIFIED COMMAND FOR WMD/TERRORISM INCIDENTS TRAINING WORKSHOP ▪ KAREN GRANDCHAMP (860) 862-6194	8/9-12/04	8:00 AM	MOHEGAN TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, UNCASVILLE
CONSIDERATIONS IN CREATING A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/11/04	1:00 PM	CHA
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/19/04	9:00 AM	CHA
EMERGENCY LIFTS, DRAGS, AND CARRIES FOR TRANSPORTING PATIENTS RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/24/04	8:00 AM	CHA
FULL HOSPITAL EVACUATION PLANS RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/25/04	9:00 AM	CHA
SET-UP AND OPERATIONS OF THE ACSI SURE CLEAN III DECON SHOWER SYSTEM RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/26/04	1:00 PM	CHA