

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

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As part of Connecticut's ongoing emergency preparedness activities and until notified otherwise by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, southern tier hospitals are encouraged to report their hospital bed capacity twice daily via the BT website. Daily testing of the MEDSAT communications system will end Saturday, Sept. 4, at 9:00 a.m. and will return to testing every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Training/Education

- Currently 14,357 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.
- Connecticut's inaugural National Disaster Life Support training program will be held from September 28 – October 1, 2004 and will include Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS), Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS), and the ADLS Instructor course. The entire cost of this 4-day program will be funded by a grant from HRSA and is being coordinated with the American Medical Association. Physicians and nurses interested in attending should contact their supervisors and register as soon as possible as space is limited. For additional information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.
- Emergency Management 102 (EM 102), an enhancement of the EM 101 introductory course, is under development and will replace EM 101 in October, 2004. With the addition of a mental health component, EM 102 will prepare healthcare workers to address the emotional needs of the worried well, victims, families and other healthcare professionals. As with EM 101, EM 102 will be shared with all of Connecticut's healthcare delivery facilities to assist them with providing awareness level emergency preparedness training for their staff.

National Preparedness Month

- Throughout the month of September, activities are planned around the country to highlight the importance of individual emergency preparedness. The National Preparedness Month coalition, which includes the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, more than 80 organizations and all 56 states and territories, will encourage Americans to take simple steps now to prepare themselves and their families for any possible emergencies and will join together for a launch on Capitol Hill on September 9 in Washington, D. C. The event, co-chaired by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and Representatives Christopher Cox (R-CA) and Jane Harman (D-CA), will be held on the grounds of the United States Capitol at 11:00 AM EDT.

HEPA Bond Funding Update

- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin has sent a letter to Connecticut's 32 acute care hospital chief executive officers regarding the bond funding approved by the Connecticut General Assembly, a portion of which is earmarked for the enhancement of isolation rooms at each of the 32 acute care facilities. Funding will be provided through DPH and will allow each institution to upgrade its negative pressure isolation rooms to be HEPA compliant. Each institution will be reimbursed up to 50% or to a maximum of \$25,000 for the HEPA system upgrade.

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Bioterrorism Collection Kit Demonstration

- Bioterrorism Collection Kit refresher courses are currently being scheduled by YNHHS OEP. These demonstrations are meant to refresh emergency department, infectious disease and laboratory staff members in the proper protocols and procedures used for the collection of patient samples presumed to be infected by bioterrorism agents. For more information or to schedule a demonstration, please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor, at (203) 688-2594 or virginia.kristie@ynhh.org.

CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Website

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Laboratory Response Network (LRN) website was launched on August 27, 2004 and is available for viewing at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/lrn/>. The mission of the LRN and its partners is to maintain an integrated national and international network of laboratories that are fully equipped to respond quickly to acts of chemical or biological terrorism, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health threats and emergencies.

Syndromic Surveillance

- Funding is available through the end of September to assist interested hospitals with implementing ED Syndromic Surveillance, a tool to allow the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health to potentially identify emerging public health threat as early as possible. Any southern tier hospital that is not yet participating, but would like more information, should contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.

Emergency Credentialing Program

- Plans to expand the current emergency credentialing program to include nurses, respiratory therapists, radiographers, laboratorians, paramedics, pharmacists and behavioral health professionals have been developed with recruitment activities to begin shortly. Presentations on the emergency credentialing process for each of the allied health disciplines are taking place at their respective Connecticut Hospital Association work group meetings during September. For more information, or to schedule an emergency credentialing program presentation at your hospital, please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.

Emerging Infectious Diseases and Public Threats Smallpox Planning Template

- Most of the southern tier hospitals have completed and returned their Hospital Smallpox Vaccination templates to the YNHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness. As a reminder, these templates need to be submitted to the YNHHS Center of Excellence as soon as possible. Any hospital having questions or requiring further assistance in completing this document should contact Christopher Cannon at (203) 688-3224 or Sue MacArthur at (860) 545-3929.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
BH EM COMMITTEE	9/7/04	8:00 AM	ACR
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	9/9/04	8:30 AM	CHA
GREENWICH EMERG MGMT MTG	9/14/04	2:00 PM	GREENWICH HOSPITAL
YNHHS TABLETOP DRILL	9/27/04	9:00 AM	GRACE BLDG LOUNGES A&B

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