

## Office of Emergency Preparedness

### Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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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. Weekly testing of the MEDSAT communications system has resumed to every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.**

#### Training/Education

- Currently 14,604 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.
- Registrations are still being accepted for Connecticut's inaugural National Disaster Life Support training program to be held from September 28 – October 1, 2004. Physicians, nurses and paramedics that register for the 4-day ADLS instructor course will be requested to serve as trainers for future courses held in Connecticut. Those 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](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

#### HEPA Bond Funding Update

- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin has sent a letter to Connecticut's 32 acute care hospitals 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. Hospitals with questions should contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496.

#### National Preparedness Month

- On September 9, 2004, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security launched National Preparedness Month. Senators Susan Collins, R-ME, and Joseph Lieberman, D-CT, and Representatives Christopher Cox, R-CA, and Jane Harman, D-CA, joined DHS Secretary Tom Ridge in thanking participating individuals and organizations for their efforts to make the nation more prepared. "National Preparedness Month will give everyone an opportunity to work toward a better prepared America," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "This broad coalition and vast number of activities and events will allow us to reach millions of individuals and inform them about ways they can prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools." To encourage and assist YNHHS employees and their families with the development of their own preparedness plans, YNHHS OEP has developed a checklist and an informational brochure that guide the individual through the planning process. Employees may contact OEP at (203) 688-3224 to obtain the YNHHS "PEACE of Mind" Preparedness Plan which will be available September 23, 2004.

#### Chem Pack Letter to the CEOs

- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin has sent a letter to the CEOs of the acute care hospitals identified as primary sites for the Chem Pack pharmaceutical caches asking for their support in storing and monitoring these CDC assets. Responses have been requested by September 15, 2004 in order to expedite implementation of this program in Connecticut. Any hospital having questions should contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496.

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### CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

- The September 10, 2004 issue of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report featured three articles on the World Trade Center: Physical Health Status of World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery Workers and Volunteers-New York City, July 2002-August 2004, Mental Health Status of World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery Workers and Volunteers-New York City, July 2002-August 2004 and Preliminary Results from the World Trade Center Evacuation Study-New York City, 2003. HTML and PDF versions of the report are available for download from the CDC website at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/_wk.html) and <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk?mm5335.pdf>.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Additional orders for Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) for the acute care hospitals have been placed by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health with delivery expected shortly. Please notify Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496 as to the number of additional units your facility receives. Recommendations for replacement parts to have available are under development by DPH and will be distributed shortly.

### Medical Reserve Corps

- The Medical Reserve Corps has implemented its recruitment campaign for the school year 2004-2005 with the Yale Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health. Nineteen new physician assistant students have recently joined the MRC and will be attending the orientation and training session scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2004.

### 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](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org).

### 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](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org).

### Upcoming Southern Connecticut Bioterrorism Planning Committee Meetings

- Please note that the southern tier hospital meetings normally scheduled for the second Thursday of the month have been rescheduled for October and November (10/21/04 and 11/19/04) at CHA at 8:30 a.m. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MASH MTG	9/20/04	9:00 AM	OPM
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	10/21/04	8:30 AM	CHA
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	11/19/04	8:30 AM	CHA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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