

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 39

Threat Level

September 24, 2004

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Communications Unit sent a memo to all MEDSAT-equipped facilities to express thanks for their continued participation in the twice daily hospital bed capacity reporting via the BT website and the daily testing of the MEDSAT communication system. According to Mr. David Hunt, "During the final full business week of daily roll calls, facility response rates averaged 87%. This included one day with a 92% response rate. Thanks for a job well done." Weekly testing of the MEDSAT system has resumed to every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Training/Education

- Currently 15,752 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 National Disaster Life Support program begins Tuesday, September 28, 2004. Currently 70 participants have registered for the Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course, along with 50 participants for the Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) and Instructor courses. It is anticipated that additional BDLS and ADLS courses will be scheduled with the help of these new AMA-accredited instructors in the near future. Fifteen of the 32 acute care hospitals, 3 of the 5 Emergency Medical Services regions, and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will be represented at the training course, as well as participants from Massachusetts, and the countries of Turkey, South Korea, and Barbados.

National Preparedness Month

- To encourage and assist YNHHS employees and their families with the development of their own preparedness plans, YNHHS OEP has developed a checklist "tool" and an informational brochure that guide the individual through the planning process. Employees may contact their supervisor or OEP at (203) 688-3224 to obtain the YNHHS "PEACE of Mind" Preparedness Plan checklist and brochure which are now available for distribution. Electronic versions of each are attached to this briefing.



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.

Upcoming Southern Connecticut BT 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 HEPA Bond Funding Update
- 2 Avian Influenza H5N1 Vaccine

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 "finance physical plant modifications and renovations to isolate patients in the case of a smallpox event," an example of which would be the upgrade of negative pressure isolation rooms to be HEPA compliant. The deadline for submitting funding requests to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has been extended until September 29, 2004. 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.

Avian Influenza H5N1 Vaccine

- Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the awarding of a contract to Aventis Pasteur Inc. to manufacture and store 2 million doses of avian influenza H5N1 vaccine, an important initial acquisition to better prepare the nation for an influenza pandemic. The vaccine that is being made is designed to match the H5N1 influenza virus that has killed 29 people in Thailand and Vietnam this year. If a pandemic of avian influenza virus H5N1 occurred in humans, the new vaccine would be used to protect laboratory workers, healthcare personnel, and, if needed, the general public. The purchase of the new vaccine follows Secretary Thompson's announcement last month of the National Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan, which outlines a coordinated national strategy to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. The draft plan can be found online at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemicplan>.

Medical Reserve Corps

- The second in a series of Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Orientation and Training sessions was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at the Yale University School of Medicine. Additional sessions are being scheduled for the Yale School of Public Health. The new MRC volunteers are beginning their Emergency Department rotations. Those volunteers who expressed interest in assuming leadership roles within the MRC structure have begun shadowing the present leaders to better understand the roles they will play in the future.

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 an 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.

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.

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 and recruitment brochures are expected to be sent out in October. 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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MASH MTG	9/27/04	9:00 AM	OPM
NATIONAL DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING PROGRAM	9/28-10/1/04	8:00 AM DAILY	NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB & NORTH BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	10/21/04	8:30 AM	CHA

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SEMINAR LYNDA NGUYEN (860) 947-1101	9/27/04	8:30 AM	CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SEMINAR LYNDA NGUYEN (860) 947-1101	9/28/04	8:30 AM	WATER'S EDGE RESORT WESTBROOK, CT
NATIONAL DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING PROGRAM	9/28-10/1/04	8:00 AM	NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB & NORTH BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
COMPUTER-AIDED MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (CAMEO) TRAINING WORKSHOP KAREN GRANDCHAMP (860) 862-6194	10/26-28/04	8:00 AM	MOHEGAN TRIBAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

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
DARRIAN FITZPATRICK	MASH COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2577	DARRIAN.FITZPATRICK@YNHH.ORG