

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 40

Threat Level

October 1, 2004

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health forwarded the following FBI warning to all acute care hospitals: "The agency has received non-specific and unverified information about possible threats of terrorism from foreign nurses who may have received work visas to enter the United States to work in hospitals and other healthcare institutions. As is always the case, we request you remind your staff to be always vigilant for suspicious activity and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement."

Training/Education

- Currently 15,945 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.

Additional Reporting Requirements

To support the state's level of medical readiness, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has requested that each acute care hospital begin reporting additional capacity information. This additional information is important for identifying adequate capacity to support our hospitals at any given time in the following areas:

- [clean water and electricity](#)
- [pharmacy and medical supplies](#)
- [blood supply](#)
- [staffing](#)
- [security](#)
- [equipment \(i.e. monitors, ventilators, IV pumps, etc.\)](#)

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has requested that the information initially be collected during the weekly MEDSAT roll call beginning next Thursday, October 7, 2004. Once the changes to the Hartford Hospital Bioterrorism website are completed, the information will be reported along with the bed status electronically. Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Key Facts about the Flu Vaccine

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued a fact sheet that identifies key facts about the flu vaccine. Flu prevention, when to get vaccinated, and who should get vaccinated are a sample of topic areas covered. For more information, visit the CDC website for an electronic copy at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>.

National Preparedness Month

- To encourage and assist employees and their families with the development of their own preparedness plans, YNHHS OEP has developed the "PEACE of Mind" Preparedness Plan checklist and brochure that guide the individual through the planning process. Individuals or organizations interested in sharing this tool with their employees or communities may contact OEP at (203) 688-3224 for more information. Electronic copies are attached to this briefing.

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

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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.

Childhood Influenza Vaccination Coverage

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children less than 2 years of age are at increased risk for influenza-related hospitalizations. Beginning with the 2004-05 influenza season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is recommending that, when feasible, all children aged 6-23 months, as well as household contacts and out-of-home caregivers for children aged <2 years, receive influenza vaccinations each influenza season. Children aged 6 months-18 years with certain high-risk medical conditions or who are household contacts of persons at high risk for influenza complications are also recommended to receive the vaccine. More information is available for download from the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5337a1.htm>.

Medical Reserve Corps

- Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Orientation and Training sessions are scheduled for Yale School of Public Health students on October 4, 2004. A total of 94 healthcare and public health students have volunteered to assist the system hospitals during a large-scale disaster as part of the Medical Reserve Corps.

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 continue to take place at their respective Connecticut Hospital Association work group meetings 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.

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
COMPUTER-AIDED MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (CAMEO) TRAINING WORKSHOP	10/26-28/04	8:00 AM	MOHEGAN TRIBAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
KAREN GRANDCHAMP (860) 862-6194			

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MEDSAT Phone Testing

- Please remember the MEDSAT communication system continues to be tested every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Your participation is critical to the success of this emergency preparedness process.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SEPC COMMITTEE	10/6/04	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF RM
MASH MEETING	10/12/04	9:00 AM	OPM
SCAC MEETING	10/14/04	12:00 PM	OEP
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	10/21/04	8:30 AM	CHA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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