

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

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Threat Level

October 8, 2004

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) 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 16,119 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.
- Emergency Management 102 (EM 102), an enhancement of the EM 101 introductory course, 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. Employees have the ability to test out of EM 102 through a pre-test process. 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.

Clinical Laboratory Functional BT Drill

- An invitation to participate in a State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) clinical laboratory functional bioterrorism drill was sent this week to all acute care laboratory administrators, microbiology supervisors and hospital disaster coordinators. The drill, which is scheduled to take place in December, will test for analytical accuracy, analytical turn-around-time, intra-hospital communication and inter-agency communication. The results of the drill will provide DPH with valuable information on the current state of the Connecticut Laboratory Response Network (LRN). Participation, although voluntary, will demonstrate lab participation in the institution's bioterrorism response plan, which is now mandated by College of American Pathologists (CAP). For further information, please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor, at (203)688-2594 or virginia.kristie@ynhh.org.

MEDSAT & Capacity Reporting

- Please remember the MEDSAT communication system continues to be tested every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. as well as the twice daily capacity reporting for the following areas: bed availability, clean water and electricity, pharmacy and medical supplies, blood supply, staffing, security, and equipment (e.g., monitors, ventilators, IV pumps, etc.). The CT DPH Emergency Preparedness Hospital Capacity Assessment is attached to this briefing. Your participation is critical to the success of this emergency preparedness process.

National Disaster Life Support Program

- YNHHS sponsored a National Disaster Life Support program September 28 through October 1, 2004. Seventy (70) enrollees participated in the Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course, and 44 of the 70 participants for the Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) and Instructor courses. Fifteen of the 32 acute care hospitals, 3 of the Emergency Medical Services regions, and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health were represented at the training course, as well as participants from Massachusetts, and the countries of Turkey, South Korea, and a representative from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) from Barbados. The program was conducted in collaboration with the American Medical Association.



NDLS participants suit-up for the decontamination training module.

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National Preparedness Month

- Throughout the month of September, activities were held around the country to highlight the importance of individual emergency preparedness. To encourage and assist 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. Individuals or organizations interested in sharing this tool with their employees or communities may contact OEP at (203) 688-3224 for more information.

Medical Reserve Corps Website

- The Yale New Haven Health System Medical Reserve Corps rolled out their website on October 5, 2004. Ms. Farrah Dakota, MRC Student Representative for the School of Medicine, developed the website which can be visited at www.med.yale.edu/yaxis/mrc. The website will provide a communications link between the Schools of Nursing, Medicine and Public Health and can be used to post information regarding training sessions, ED rotations, meeting notices, drills and exercises.

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.

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

Drills & Exercises

- St. Mary's Hospital conducted a functional mass casualty decontamination drill on September 21, 2004. Various agencies participated in the exercise including Waterbury Hospital, YNHHS, local EMS, Waterbury Fire Department, Naugatuck Fire Department, Waterbury Police, Homeland Security Education Center, and local public health.

Interim Influenza Vaccination

Recommendations: 2004-2005

On October 5, 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was notified by Chiron Corporation that none of its influenza vaccine (Fluvirin®) would be available for distribution in the United States for the 2004-05 influenza season. The company indicated that the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in the United Kingdom, where Chiron's Fluvirin vaccine is produced, has suspended the company's license to manufacture Fluvirin vaccine in its Liverpool facility for 3 months, preventing any release of this vaccine for this influenza season. This action will reduce by approximately one half the expected supply of trivalent inactivated vaccine (flu shot) available in the United States for the 2004-05 influenza season. The remaining supply of influenza vaccine expected to be available in the United States this season is nearly 54 million doses of Fluzone® (inactivated flu shot) manufactured by Aventis Pasteur, Inc. Of these doses, approximately 30 million doses already have been distributed by the manufacturer. In addition, approximately 1.1 million doses of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV/FluMist®) manufactured by MedImmune will be available this season. Because of this urgent situation, CDC, in coordination with its Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), is issuing interim recommendations for influenza vaccination during the 2004-05 season. These interim recommendations were formally recommended by ACIP on October 5, 2004, and take precedence over earlier recommendations. The following priority groups for vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine this season are considered to be of equal importance and are:

- all children aged 6-23 months;
- adults aged 65 years and older;
- persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- children aged 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged < 6 months.

For additional information, please visit the CDC website at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2004pres/20041005b.html>.



St. Mary's Functional Mass Casualty Decontamination Drill

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MASH MEETING	10/12/04	9:00 AM	OPM
SCAC MEETING	10/14/04	12:00 PM	OEP
STATE BT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MTG	10/18/04	1:00 PM	CHA
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMMITTEE	10/21/04	8:30 AM	CHA
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMMITTEE	11/19/04	8:30 AM	CHA

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FOR MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS TRAIN-THE-TRAINER, B461 COURSE HTTP://TRAINING.FEMA.GOV/EMIWEB/NTC/B461.ASP RON FREEMAN, CET, CEMP, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEMA/EMI, HAZMAT/ICS/HERT TRAINING SPECIALIST & PROGRAM MANAGER (301) 447-1082 OFFICE (323) 823-0856 MOBILE (301) 447-1081 FAX			NOBLE TRAINING CENTER ANNISTON, ALABAMA

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