

## Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

October 29, 2004

**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.). Participation is critical to the success of this emergency preparedness process.**

### Training/Education

- Currently 17,940 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. With the addition of a psychological first aid 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. EM 102 is in the process of being added to HealthStream at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital, Greenwich Hospital and the System.

### DPH Influenza Surveillance System

- Isolation and identification of circulating influenza virus strains are an important part of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's (DPH) influenza surveillance system. DPH encourages physicians to submit throat swabs from patients with a typical influenza syndrome (abrupt onset of fever, myalgia and cough) to the DPH Laboratory for virus isolation. Healthcare providers can submit specimens for influenza testing at no charge from October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. For more information, please contact Dr. Matthew Cartter, DPH Epidemiology Program Coordinator at (860) 509-7994 or [matt.cartter@po.state.ct.us](mailto:matt.cartter@po.state.ct.us).

### DPH Update on Vaccine Availability and Hospital Recommendations

- A letter from DPH Commissioner Galvin to the acute care hospitals concerning the reduced influenza supply was sent on October 28, 2004 and is attached to this briefing. The letter provides information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's goals for meeting the vaccine needs of the providers, recommendations for vaccine use and universal respiratory etiquette (URE) guidelines.

### DPH Weekly Conference Calls

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will be conducting weekly conference calls every Friday until further notice at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the current influenza season with acute care hospital and local health partners. The telephone number to call is (800) 857-7419 and the passcode to join the conference call is 78406; this information will remain consistent. For further information, please contact Mary Duley, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Office of Public Health Preparedness at (860) 509-7152. In addition, DPH has set up an Influenza Updates hotline at (800) 830-9426.

### Governor Rell Directs Health Department to Serve as Clearinghouse for Flu Vaccine from Private Sector


- Governor Rell has directed the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to serve as a clearinghouse for any supplies of flu vaccine available from physicians or other healthcare providers in the private sector to increase the number of doses available for residents most at risk. DPH Commissioner Dr. Galvin has been tasked by the governor with developing a plan to encourage doctors and other healthcare providers to contribute to the state any supplies they have after vaccinating high risk patients. DPH will then work with local health departments to make these doses of the vaccine available to people most in need. The governor's press release is attached to this briefing.

### Influenza Vaccine Survey

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is working with the Centers of Excellence and all of the acute care hospitals to assess the current availability of the influenza vaccine in Connecticut as well as the willingness of the hospitals to share available vaccine with other healthcare providers in the state. A survey has been developed by Yale New Haven Health System in collaboration with DPH and distributed to all of the southern tier hospitals to collect this data. A copy is attached to this briefing. Responses should be forwarded to Virginia Kristie, OEP Laboratory Program Advisor, at (203) 688-4618 or [Virginia.kristie@ynhh.org](mailto:Virginia.kristie@ynhh.org) by Friday, October 29, 2004. Your facility's cooperation in providing this information is greatly appreciated.

### Personal/Family Preparedness Plan

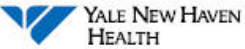
- To encourage and assist individuals and families with the development of their own preparedness plans, YNHHS OEP has developed a checklist "tool" and an informational brochure that guide the individual through the planning process. Contact OEP at (203) 688-3224 to obtain the YNHHS "PEACE of Mind" Preparedness Plan checklist and brochure which are now available for distribution. Bridgeport Hospital will distribute the kits to employees at the upcoming JCAHO Fair. Information is available on the Yale-New Haven Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital and Greenwich Hospital Intranet websites.



**Personal/Family Preparedness Plan: "PEACE" of Mind**

<b>P</b> Prepare your plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepare and review my personal/family preparedness plan	Review Date
<b>E</b> Emergency disaster kits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home Kit	Expiration Date
		Travel Kit	
		Work Kit	
<b>A</b> Arrange for the care of others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caretaker:	Phone:
		Children	
		Parents	
		Pets	
<b>C</b> Contact numbers and locations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contact Person and Location:	Phone:
		Primary Contact	
		Alternate Contact	
		Family Meeting Spot	
<b>E</b> Exercise and evaluate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Every 6 months:	Dates:
		Exercise my plan	
		Review contact information	
		Update my supplies	

For more information, please contact the Yale New Haven Health System Office of Emergency Preparedness at (203) 688-3224 or [OEPWEB@ynhh.org](mailto:OEPWEB@ynhh.org)



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

### CDC Patient Flu Vaccine Screening Form

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a flu vaccine screening form to enable patients to determine who should and should not get a flu shot. According to Dr. Matthew Cartter, DPH Epidemiology Program Coordinator, "The form is based on the most current ACIP recommendations for this influenza season and will help providers to more easily screen potential vaccinees. In flu clinics, the form may help to reduce long lines by enabling the early identification of those who should not be vaccinated during this influenza season. These persons could 'take themselves out of line' or seek clarification or answers from clinic staff before leaving the clinic area." The form is attached to this briefing.

### CDC Influenza Vaccine Resources

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated and issued a number of informational pieces about the current influenza season including:

Influenza Antiviral Medications: 2004-05 Interim Chemoprophylaxis & Treatment Guidelines

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/0405antiviralguide.htm>

Updated Questions & Answers: 2004-05 Flu Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/0405season.htm>

Questions & Answers: Information for Clinicians

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/qa\\_clinician.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/qa_clinician.htm)

Public Service Announcements & Video Clips for the 2004-05 Flu Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/0405psas.htm>

Satellite Media Tour Video Clips on the Flu Vaccine Shortage, October 2004

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/satellitetur04.htm>

Patient Education Materials: Vaccine Shortage Flyers

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flu/gallery/shortageflyers.htm>

Clinicians and hospital administrators are encouraged to review these materials and implement the recommendations as appropriate.

### Learning Management System/Website Development

- In November 2004, the OEP Internet website and Learning Management System (LMS) will be launched. Major sections include What's New, Education & Training, Programs & Services, Partnerships, Community Preparedness, the Center and a link back to the YNHHS homepage. The Education and Training section will link users to online courses which will include Emergency Management 102 (EM 102), an introductory course designed to help healthcare workers understand their roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency or disaster. Enhancements will be made to the OEP Intranet website in the coming months and will continue to focus on System-related activities and topics of interest.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MASH MTG	11/05/04	9:00 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	11/05/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
SEPC	11/10/04	8:30 AM	EDU CONF RM
MASH MTG	11/12/04	9:00 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	11/12/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMMITTEE	11/19/94	8:30 AM	CHA

**ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PPE TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	11/6-7/04	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CT

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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