

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

November 12, 2004

The southern tier hospitals continue to meet the challenge of MEDSAT communication system testing and capacity reporting and have achieved 100% participation on several occasions. 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

- EM 102, an enhancement of and replacement for EM 101, is available for implementation at interested acute care hospitals. Individuals 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. Please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org for more information.
- Nine thousand eight hundred ten (9,810) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.

Influenza Vaccine Survey

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has asked YNHHS OEP to assist the southern tier hospitals with a process to identify the ability to share available influenza vaccine with those hospitals that have not received vaccine. OEP is working with hospitals to determine how the vaccine will be shared once all available vaccine is finalized. The sharing of vaccine will be handled through the Pharmacy departments at each hospital.

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.

Crisis Communication Plan for Network Delivery Hospitals

- OEP is working with Vin Patrini, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, and the public information officers at the network delivery hospitals on the development of a crisis communication plan for YNHHS.

DPH Weekly Conference Calls

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health continues to conduct weekly conference calls every Friday at 1:00 p. m. until further notice 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. The DPH Influenza Updates hotline is available at (800) 830-9426.

DPH Reports First Flu Case of the Season

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory confirmed the first case of influenza in Connecticut. According to DPH Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, "Type A influenza was the cause of illness for a Connecticut resident, an elderly woman from New Haven County." Influenza symptoms include a rapid onset of fever, chills, headache and muscle ache followed by a runny nose, sore throat and cough, often severe and lasting for many days. Recovery from influenza is anywhere from two to seven days. "We continue to recommend that Connecticut residents who are at high risk due to complications of the flu speak with their health care providers and consider receiving a flu shot," said Dr. Galvin. The DPH press release is attached to this briefing.

CDC Influenza Vaccine Resources

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a number of informational pieces about the current influenza season including key facts about the flu, patient education materials and information sheets for clinicians. Clinicians and hospital administrators are encouraged to review these materials and implement the recommendations as appropriate. An updated resource list is attached to this briefing.

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Learning Management System/Website Development

- On November 13, 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.

**YALE NEW HAVEN CENTER FOR
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RESPONSE**
A State of Connecticut Center of Excellence For Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response



Medical Reserve Corps

- A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) orientation and training session was held Thursday, November 4, 2004 at the School of Public Health during which an additional 125 student volunteers joining the ranks of the MRC. To date, 267 volunteers from the Yale Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health have joined the MRC. If interested in joining the Yale New Haven Health System Medical Reserve Corps, please contact Richard Kleindienst Sr., MRC Coordinator at (203) 688-3912 or Richard.Kleindienst.Sr@ynhh.org for details.

APHA Poster Presentation

- A poster on the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program was presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) on November 9, 2004 in Washington, D.C. by YNHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness representatives. There was significant interest in the approach taken in Connecticut by agencies and organizations from around the country. Please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or Elaine.forte@ynhh.org for information on the existing program, or the expanded program scheduled to kick-off in November with recruitment brochures being mailed to all of Connecticut's licensed healthcare providers.

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

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
INFLUENZA UPDATE NETCONFERENCE HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU/PROFESSIONALS/TRAINING/NOVNETCO.NF.HTM	11/19/04	12:00 PM EST	CDC TELECONFERENCE
COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF FUNCTIONS IN THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM CHIEF NICK DELIA (860) 446-4176	11/29-12/4/04	8:00 AM DAILY	CITY OF GROTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT/UNIFIED COMMAND FOR WMD/TERRORISM INCIDENTS (MGT-313) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	11/30-12/2/04	8:00 AM DAILY	DPS/DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY BRAINARD FIELD
NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (NIMS) ORIENTATION CLASS DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	12/3/04	8:00 AM- 12 NOON	DPS/DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY BRAINARD FIELD
SENIOR OFFICIALS WORKSHOP FOR WMD/TERRORISM INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS (MGT-312) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	12/6/04	9:00 AM	ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
STATE BT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	11/15/04	1:00 PM	CHA
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMMITTEE	11/19/04	8:30 AM	CHA
MASH MTG	11/19/04	9:00 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	11/19/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
SCAC	11/23/04	12:00 PM	OEP
MASH MTG	11/26/04	9:00 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	11/26/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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