

## Office of Emergency Preparedness

### Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

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**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.**

#### Learning Management System/Website Development

- On November 13, 2004, the OEP Internet website and learning management system (LMS) were launched. Major sections include What's New, Education and Training, Programs & Services, Partnerships, Community Preparedness and About the Center. The Education and Training section links users to online courses, which at launch 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. The website can be reached at: <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/>

#### ONLINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING



#### 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.

#### 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 on the CDC website and implement the recommendations as appropriate.

#### 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).

#### Mass Decontamination Mobilization Plan

- The Office of Emergency Management is asking for comments on its draft of a statewide Mass Decontamination Mobilization Plan (attached) that addresses both the mobile decontamination units and hospital units that were purchased by funds from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Comments should be sent to Jim Paturas at YNHHS OEP at [james.paturas@ynhh.org](mailto:james.paturas@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)

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### Influenza Vaccine Survey

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be allocating influenza vaccine to each state based on a survey sent to pharmacy directors by state departments of public health. Connecticut pharmacy directors need to report their current dose status as well as their anticipated needs and return the survey to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). For more information on the survey, contact Virginia Kristie at YNHHS OEP at (203) 688-2594.

### Emergency Credential Program Expansion

- The Emergency Credentialing Program expansion will roll out shortly. As part of this process, a letter has been developed to inform all participating hospital CEOs that recruitment of nurses, diagnostic imaging professionals, respiratory care practitioners, pharmacists, behavioral health professionals, clinical laboratory professionals and paramedics will begin soon. A complete version of the participating hospital agreement and protocol will accompany the letter and provide detailed information on how each of these disciplines will be integrated into the Emergency Credentialing Program. For more information, contact Elaine Forte at YNHHS OEP at (203) 688-3391.

### SARS Preparedness

- It is time to begin increasing our awareness regarding SARS again. There were rare cases of SARS reported during the winter of 2003-2004, with most cases related to research laboratory exposures. Although no one knows whether SARS will appear this year, many lessons were learned from the 2003 SARS experience. Having a heightened sense of awareness regarding the illness and general preparedness measures in place will help address SARS early should it re-emerge this winter season. The CDC has posted on its website ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars)) materials related to SARS preparedness including clinical presentation, diagnosis, infection control precautions, fact sheets, etc.

Attached is the most recent CDC SARS guidance that you may find helpful in talking with your colleagues, staff, residents, fellows and students about SARS. This is a good time to review your hospital's policies and procedures on management of SARS patients. We have also attached Yale-New Haven Hospital's Flow Diagram for Infection Control in SARS Management, which you may find useful. Prompt notification of your hospital's Epidemiology and Infection Control Department, as well as the local and state Departments of Public Health, is of utmost importance. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) should be contacted at (860) 509-7994 or (860) 509-8000 for the on-call person evenings.

## ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
INFLUENZA UPDATE NETCONFERENCE <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/training/novnetco">HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU/PROFESSIONALS/TRAINING/NOVNETCO</a> <a href="#">NF.HTM</a>	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>
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMMITTEE	11/19/04	8:30 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 CONFERENCE CALL	11/23/04	4:00 PM	CONFERENCE CALL
GH EMERG MGMT COMMITTEE	11/23/04	3:00 PM	CONFERENCE CALL
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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JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	<a href="mailto:JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG">JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG</a>
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	<a href="mailto:ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG">ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG</a>
SCOTT SELIG	EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2587	<a href="mailto:SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG">SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG</a>