

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

December 3, 2004

The United States Department of Homeland Security recommends that while the Nation is under threat level yellow, Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit as well as a communications plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency situation.

Training/Education

- Ten thousand one hundred ninety seven (10,197) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- St. John Healthcare Network in New Zealand has incorporated EM101 as part of their menu of Education and Training courses. Ten Event Incident Commanders have been trained and the course will be rolled out to the New Zealand Northern Region Healthcare Delivery Workforce based in the city of Christchurch. St. John is divided into five regions with each region responsible for the medical training within its boundaries. Each region works with over 150 area communities. For more information, please contact Jeff Arnold, MD at (203) 688-3224 or jeff.arnold@ynhh.org or Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.
- 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. Please visit the OEP Internet website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency> for the latest information on available training, services, and Connecticut emergency preparedness initiatives.

Mass Decontamination Mobilization Plan

- Comments are being requested on the draft of a statewide Mass Decontamination Mobilization Plan developed by the State of Connecticut Office of Emergency Management that addresses both the mobile decontamination units and hospital units that were purchased by funds from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). If you have not yet submitted comments, please do so as soon as possible to Jim Paturas at james.paturas@ynhh.org.

DPH Commissioner Galvin Requests

Continued Assistance for Vaccine Shortage

- In a letter to acute care hospitals, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, MD, is requesting continued assistance to address the vaccine shortage. DPH is looking for hospitals willing and able to serve as vaccine drop off and pick up points for physicians with admitting privileges to your hospital and is asking that organizations promote the use of the DPH Flu Vaccine website. The letter is attached to this briefing.
- Connecticut pharmacy directors are requested to report their current influenza vaccine dose status as well as their anticipated needs and return the survey to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) by Friday, December 3, 2004. Hospitals faxing antiviral sheets without a cover page need to identify their respective facilities. Information forwarded to DPH after the Friday deadline should list Marge Letitia as the recipient. For more information on the survey, contact Virginia Kristie at YNHHS OEP at (203) 688-2594.

DPH 2004-2005 Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Testing Weekly Report

- DPH continues to encourage 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 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 or Virginia Kristie, OEP Laboratory Program Coordinator, at (203) 688-2594 or virginia.kristie@ynhh.org. The November 30, 2004 Weekly Report is attached to this briefing.

CDC Questions & Answers: 2004-2005 Vaccine Supply

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted several new questions and answers on their website regarding nationwide allocation of the influenza vaccine. Information is available for review at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/ga/0405vaccinesupply.htm>.

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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 hospitals and local health partners. The telephone number to call is (860) 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.

Biodosimetry Laboratory

- Nineteen laboratories in Connecticut, representing 9 of the 10 public health preparedness planning regions, have been trained to provide specimen processing support to the State of Connecticut Biodosimetry Laboratory in the event of a radiation disaster.
- The State of Connecticut Biodosimetry Laboratory has been inspected and issued a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Certificate of Compliance in recognition of its meeting all applicable requirements for the provision of quality laboratory testing.

Emergency Credentialing 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 shortly. 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.

Functional Bioterrorism Laboratory Drill

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will conduct a statewide functional bioterrorism laboratory drill in early December. The drill outcomes will provide the State with valuable guidance in optimizing the statewide laboratory response. The objectives of the drill are four-fold and relate to your facility laboratory's bioterrorism response: analytical accuracy, analytical turnaround time, intra-hospital communication and inter-agency communication. Please forward any questions regarding the drill to Virginia Kristie at (203) 688-2594 or virginia.kristie@ynhh.org.

Smallpox Mass Vaccination Drill

- The VA Connecticut Healthcare System conducted a Smallpox Mass Vaccination Drill on November 22, 2004. Coordinated by Dr. Esther Nash, the objective of the exercise was to evaluate the hospital's Smallpox Mass Vaccination Clinic Plan. YNHHS OEP assisted with the drill evaluation piece.

Recruitment

- Please welcome Cecilia Longenbaker as the Education and Training Curriculum Specialist to OEP.

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>
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
MANAGING CIVIL ACTIONS IN THREAT INCIDENTS (MCATI): PROTESTOR DEVICES DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	12/13-17/04	8:30 AM DAILY	CT POLICE ACADEMY

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MASH MTG	12/6/04	9:00 AM	OPM
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	12/9/04	8:30 AM	CHA
MASH MTG	12/10/04	9:00 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	12/10/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	12/14/04	11:00 AM	OEP
MASH MTG	12/17/04	9:00 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	12/17/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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