

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

December 10, 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

Training/Education

- Ten thousand three hundred twenty eight (10,328) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- EM 201: Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians is the intervention portion of an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) agreement led by Dr. Louise Dembry. Letters have been mailed to selected physicians within the Yale New Haven Delivery Network physicians to invite their participation in evaluation of the new on-line course. The course will be made available from December 15th through January 31st. Following completion of the study, the course will be made available to all physicians via the OEP learning management system. Participants who complete the course will be eligible to receive 1.0 CME category 1 credit.
- Based on suggestions generated during the State of Connecticut Legislative Program Review process, healthcare entities in Connecticut are asked to complete the attached training data sheet. Emergency preparedness training data collected will stored initially in a centralized database by the Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence (CoE) and subsequently exported into state and national data repositories.

DHS Contracts

- The revised contract between the Connecticut Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the acute care hospitals related to pharmaceutical caches for first responders was distributed by CT DHS in late October. While the latest revision has addressed inclusion of hospital-based healthcare workers as part of the first responder population, some additional clarification regarding the list of pharmaceuticals approved for purchase with these funds is needed. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health is requesting that acute care hospitals not sign the DHS agreement at this time until such time as these outstanding issues have been resolved.

Governor Rell Nominates OPM Official to Head New Homeland Security Agency

- Governor Rell nominated James M. "Skip" Thomas, a 28-year police veteran with 14 years of experience as police chief in Vernon and Glastonbury, to be Commissioner of the newly created Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). The General Assembly passed legislation this year establishing DEMHS as of January 1, 2005, combining and expanding on the responsibilities previously shared between the Office of Emergency Management and the Division of Homeland Security. The new Commissioner will be responsible for coordinating with state and local governments and private sector groups to ensure they have the right equipment and that they implement planning and training to meet homeland security needs.

Stockpile Recommendations

- Physician representatives of the YNHHS System Clinical Advisory Committee are developing recommendations for pharmaceuticals that should be part of acute care hospital stockpiles for response to biological, chemical, trauma/burn and radiological emergencies. Included will be recommendations as to medication formulation and quantity to have on hand. These recommendations will be available for review and comment by December 27 and will be distributed electronically to all representatives of the Southern Connecticut Hospital Bioterrorism Planning Committee. Hospitals will be encouraged to review the list and provide feedback within two weeks for final recommendations.

Emergency Credentialing Program Expansion

- For the next phase of the Emergency Credentialing Program expansion, a letter has been developed to inform all participating hospital CEOs for the recruitment of nurses, diagnostic imaging professionals, respiratory care practitioners, pharmacists, behavioral health professionals, clinical laboratory professionals and paramedics. 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. The CEO letter will be sent early next week. For more information, contact Elaine Forte at YNHHS OEP at (203) 688-3391.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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 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.

TOPOFF3 Update

- A TOPOFF3 summary document is attached to this briefing which outlines areas of participation for the acute care hospitals related to the April 4, 2005 exercise. Topics include participating hospital action items and roles and responsibilities for the data collector and controller positions.
- To train and prepare communications staff for TOPOFF 3 in April 2005, the Connecticut TOPOFF3 Planning team is extending invitations to hospital public information officers (PIO), public affairs officers (PAO) and risk communicators to attend the local PIO/PAO conference to be held on December 16, 2004 from 7:30 am to 4:15 pm at the Mystic Hilton. Space is limited to 80 attendees and will be on a first come, first serve basis. The registration form, conference concept paper, read-ahead document and conference agenda are attached to this briefing. It is highly recommended that hospital PIOs attend the training session.

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>
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
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) FOR CERT TEAM TRAINERS DONNA LEE CAMPELL (860) 566-1188	1/5-7/05	8:00 AM	NEW CANAAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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
STATE BT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	12/20/04	1:00 PM	CHA
GREENWICH EMERG MGMT COMMITTEE	12/21/04	2:00 PM	GH
SEPC	12/22/04	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF RM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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