

## Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

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**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 suspicions items or activities to local authorities immediately.**

### Training/Education

- Ten thousand four hundred sixty five (10,465) personnel representing healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- Evaluation of EM 201: Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians, the intervention portion of an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) agreement led by Dr. Louise Dembry, is currently underway and will continue through January 31, 2005. Following completion of the study, the course will be made available to all physicians via OEP's learning management system. Participants who complete the course will be eligible to receive 1.0 CME category 1 credit.

### Stockpile Recommendations

- Physician representatives of the YNHHS System Clinical Advisory Committee are developing recommendations for pharmaceuticals as 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 the end of December and will be distributed electronically to all representatives of the Southern Connecticut Bioterrorism Planning Committee. Hospitals will be encouraged to use the final approved stockpile recommendations to coordinate stockpile approaches within their Public Health Emergency Planning Regions.

### Universal Respiratory Etiquette

- A randomized household survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 11 states to determine Americans' experiences, beliefs and practices regarding influenza prevention found that more than 80% are willing to take measures that might prevent influenza transmission, including wearing a mask while waiting to see a healthcare provider. In light of limited availability of influenza vaccine this season, the CDC indicated that the use of masks by persons with cough illnesses in healthcare settings and other recommended respiratory hygiene strategies might help decrease influenza transmission. All of the delivery network hospitals (Yale-New Haven Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital, and Greenwich Hospital) have implemented the Universal Respiratory Etiquette (URE), not only in the Emergency Department and outpatient areas, but also when dealing with pediatric, HIV, and geriatric populations.

### DPH Weekly Conference Call Date Change

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health weekly conference calls normally scheduled for every Friday at 1:00 p.m. will be held on Thursday, December 30, 2004 due to the state holiday schedule; Friday conference calls will resume on January 7, 2005. 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.

### Mental Health & Burn/Trauma Clinical Annexes

- The Mental Health and Burn/Trauma Clinical Annexes were presented to the System Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEPC) by Doctors Schonfeld and Arnold. Both clinical annexes were unanimously approved by the committee.

### CDC Advisory Committee Recommends Expanded Priority Groups List

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded the list of priority groups recommended to receive inactivated influenza vaccine this flu season, depending on the availability of influenza vaccine in state or local health jurisdictions. Adults ages 50-64 and close contacts of persons in high-risk groups will be eligible for influenza vaccination in areas where vaccine supply is sufficient to meet demand. More information can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressres/r041217.htm>.

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### TOPOFF3 Update

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has requested that all southern tier hospitals complete the TOPOFF 3 Hospital Information Sheet attached to this briefing. Please provide complete contact information for Hospital Controllers and Hospital Evaluators/Data Collectors as this information will be added to a master database for the full-scale exercise. Also, ensure that your hospital's emergency operations center has some type of high speed DSL and /or satellite downlink capability to receive simulated news feeds from the TOPOFF 3 Virtual News Network (VNN). Questions or concerns on TOPOFF 3 can be directed to Mukesh Roy at [Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org) or (203) 688-2563.

### ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) FOR CERT TEAM TRAINERS DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	1/5-7/05	8:00 AM	NEW CANAAN FIRE DEPARTMENT
GRAND ROUND SERIES: ASSESSING CHEMICAL EXPOSURE: A DIFFERENT APPROACH <a href="http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/flyer/jan05uofa-sph-cphp.pdf">HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/FLYER/JAN05UOFA-SPH-CPHP.PDF</a>	1/6/05	9:00 AM EST	CDC SATELLITE BROADCAST
COMPUTER-AIDED MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (CAMEO)-OPERATIONS LEVEL (PER-224) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	1/25-27/05	8:00 AM	NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
"LIVE RESPONSE: A WMD INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION PROGRAM: MANAGE AND COORDINATE A LARGE SCALE INCIDENT WHILE MAINTAINING ROUTINE OPERATIONS <a href="http://www.dlnets.com/NTPI_26JAN05.HTM">HTTP://WWW.DLNETS.COM/NTPI_26JAN05.HTM</a>	1/26/05	2:00 PM EST	NATIONAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS INSTITUTE (NTPI) BROADCAST

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	12/30/04	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
SEPC COMMITTEE	1/5/05	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF RM

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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