

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 3, Issue 1

Threat Level

January 7, 2005

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 five hundred seventy two (10,572) personnel representing other 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, 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.

JCAHO Updates

- YNHHS OEP staff are currently reviewing emergency management plans with the delivery network hospitals in preparation for the upcoming JCAHO inspections in 2005. These reviews will be completed by the end of January, 2005. In addition to ensuring overall compliance with JCAHO Environment of Care standards, the plans will be assessed for consistency across the health system and for integration of the System Emergency Coordination Center's (SECC) role into the hospital's emergency response.
- YNHHS OEP is continuing to work with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) to define standards for identifying, training and utilizing disaster volunteers, both hospital and non-hospital based, within accredited facilities during an emergency event.

PAHO Guidance on Natural Disasters

- According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and contrary to popular belief, "epidemics do not occur spontaneously after a natural disaster, and dead bodies will not lead to catastrophic outbreaks of exotic diseases....The key to preventing diseases is improving sanitary conditions and informing people." PAHO has developed a list of recommendations regarding the management of cadavers in the aftermath of disasters which can be downloaded from <http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/pr040923.htm>. Additional literature is also available from the PAHO website.

Emergency Credentialing Program Update

- Letters will be sent on Monday, January 10, 2005 to all acute care hospital CEOs regarding the emergency credentialing program expansion. Attached will be a copy of the participating hospital agreement and protocol with discipline-specific appendices for physician and mid-level diagnostic imaging, nursing, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, behavioral health and laboratory professionals. A copy of the proposed appendix for paramedics will also be enclosed for review. An agreement addendum is under development and will address participation of this group during an emergency event. Volunteer recruitment brochures will be sent to the more than 100,000 Connecticut licensed healthcare professionals at the end of January.

DPH Influenza Advisory #5

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner J. Robert Galvin sent Influenza Advisory #5: Expanded Recommendations for the Use of Inactivated Influenza Vaccine to all acute care hospitals in the state. Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), DPH has expanded the list of priority groups recommended to receive inactivated influenza vaccine this year. Included in the advisory is a table identifying January 2005 Influenza Vaccination Clinics co-sponsored by DPH. The revised advisory, which expands those eligible from 2 years and younger and 50 years and over, is attached to this briefing.

Smallpox Vaccine Dryvax License Extension

- In a January 3, 2005 letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wyeth Research extended the license of lots 4030013 and 4030014 of the Smallpox Vaccine Dryvax to March, 2005. The letter can be downloaded from: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/pdf/wyethletter03jan05.pdf>.

TOPOFF3 Update

- If your hospital has not yet done so, please provide complete contact information to Mukesh Roy at YNHHS Center of Excellence (CoE) for Hospital Controllers and Hospital Evaluators/Data Collectors to be added to a master database for the full-scale TOPOFF 3 exercise. Questions or concerns on TOPOFF 3 can be directed to Mukesh at Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2563.

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ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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 HTTP://WWW.DLNETS.COM/NTPI_26JAN05.HTM	1/26/05	2:00 PM EST	NATIONAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS INSTITUTE (NTPI) BROADCAST
PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS: VACCINE SHORTAGES: PROTECTING THE PUBLIC’S HEALTH AMID STRATEGIC AND ETHICAL CONCERNS HTTP://WWW.PUBLICHEALTHGRANDROUNDS.UNC.EDU/	1/28/05	2:00 PM EST	CDC SATELLITE BROADCAST

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	1/13/05	8:30 AM	CHA
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	1/14/05	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
SCAC	1/14/05	2:00 PM	OEP
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	1/20/05	10:00 AM	Y-NHH CB 1052A

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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