

## Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

# Emergency Preparedness Briefing

1 Church Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · [Center@ynhh.org](mailto:Center@ynhh.org)

**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

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### MEDSAT Communication System Testing

- Special thanks to all southern tier hospitals for their continued participation in the weekly MEDSAT testing conducted every Thursday morning at 10:00 a. m. by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The response rate has consistently exceeded 95% on the first call and 100% on the recall. With summer vacations upon us, please identify and prepare alternate staff to participate in the testing when the primary staff is unavailable.

### International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management

- Registration is open for the Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management to be held September 12-13, 2005 at the Omni New Haven Hotel, 155 Temple St., New Haven, CT. A pre-conference workshop, *Health Disaster Management Guidelines for Evaluation and Research*, and a post-conference National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) course will also be offered for an additional fee. Online registration and forms can be accessed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natconf.html>.

### Congress Call for Abstracts

- The Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management invites individuals or organizations to submit one or more written abstracts describing their unique approach or innovation for oral presentation. The abstract submission date has been extended until July 15, 2005. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and those accepted will be published in the September, 2005 issue of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, the official journal of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. For more information and to access the abstract submission form, visit: [http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call\\_abstracts.html](http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call_abstracts.html).

### TOPOFF3 Reimbursement

- Hospitals that have submitted requests for reimbursement for expenses related to their facility's participation in the TOPOFF3 drill are reminded to submit supporting documentation to expedite the process. Timely submission of reimbursement forms is requested. For further information, please contact Debbie Gross, OEP Senior Financial Grants Coordinator at (203) 688-3317 or [debbie.gross@ynhh.org](mailto:debbie.gross@ynhh.org).

### Mark I Kit Update

- The State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), along with the Connecticut State Legislature, recently approved the use of the Mark I Nerve Agent Antidote kits by first responders. The State of Connecticut-designated Centers of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response at Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford Hospital have been tasked with providing Train-the-Trainer programs to instructors from participating towns. YNHHS CoE has scheduled nine Train-the-Trainer programs at four locations throughout the southern part of Connecticut. The first will be held at the Westport Police Department on July 6. Once a community has completed the required training of their first responders and implemented a method of managing storage and quality control for the kits, the State will distribute Mark I kits shipped to the community's point-of-contact. For additional information regarding the Mark I program, contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

### ChemPack Update

- Acute care hospitals that have agreed to provide storage space for the ChemPack program have been requested to identify 40 square feet within their respective facilities that meets the environmental and security requirements outlined in the CDC Memorandum of Understanding. Please forward this information to Joseph Marino, Epidemiologist and Coordinator of the Strategic National Stockpile Program, from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) at (860) 509-8103. Once an area has been identified, visits will be arranged for the CDC advance team to view the proposed site between July 25 and August 12. No site modifications should be made until approval has been obtained by CDC and DPH. The project is expected to be completed by August 2005. For questions regarding the ChemPack program, please contact Rick Kleindienst, Sr., at (203) 688-3912 or [richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org](mailto:richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org).

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### Emergency Credentialing Program

- Over 3,420 professionals licensed by the State and representing all disciplines have been recruited for the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP). Potential volunteers can now access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html>. Each hospital that has agreed to participate in the ECP should provide the name of a contact person who will be asked to support the program within their institution. Hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to support the minimal resources needed at their institution for program recruitment and maintenance. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated Emergency Credentialing Program contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).

### Pre-event Vaccination System (PVS) Update

- The 2005 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) hospital contract requires that all acute care hospitals identify a minimum of two staff members who will be responsible for using the Connecticut Pre-event Vaccination System (CT-PVS) database to maintain a list of staff and volunteers who are part of the smallpox mass vaccination response team. DPH will be providing a two hour CT-PVS database training session on July 12, 2005 and July 21, 2005 at their offices in Hartford. This is a hands-on introduction to the CT-PVS for persons who will be entering rosters of Connecticut smallpox mass vaccination area smallpox response team members into the database and for leaders of these response teams who will be coordinating the data to manage the teams. For more information, visit <https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx> or contact Rory Angulo, MD, MBA, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7691 or [rory.angulo@po.state.ct.us](mailto:rory.angulo@po.state.ct.us) or Carol Luddy at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).

### Avian Influenza

- Avian influenza A (H5N1) is a viral infection that usually affects wild birds but can infect and cause serious disease among poultry, such as chickens. While it is unusual for humans to get avian influenza virus infections directly from poultry or wild birds, a number of human infections and outbreaks caused by certain avian influenza A viruses have been documented since 1997. Interim Guidance about Avian Influenza A (H5N1) for U.S. Citizens Living Abroad is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian\\_flu\\_ig\\_americans\\_abroad\\_032405.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_ig_americans_abroad_032405.htm)

### Training/Education

- Eighteen thousand ninety four (18,094) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 or EM 102 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- Seventeen Connecticut school nurses have completed the pilot CD-ROM Disaster Preparedness for School Nurses training program. The course will provide school nurses with a basic understanding of community disaster preparedness and response and assist them with planning their role in a school disaster response including communication with first responders and hospitals. Contact hours will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the training. Results of the post-test and course evaluation from this pilot program are currently under analysis and will be used to make appropriate modifications to the course. Please contact Scott Selig at [scott.selig@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org) or (203) 688-2587 for more information.

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to: [Center@ynhh.org](mailto:Center@ynhh.org)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL

### ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2005 SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AND PREPAREDNESS: AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS AND PREPAREDNESS (860) 679-1510 OR MPH@NSO.UCHC.EDU	5/31-7/7/05	5:30PM TO 9:00 PM	UCONN HEALTH CENTER CLASSROOM H, FARMINGTON

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	<a href="mailto:CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG">CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG</a>
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	<a href="mailto:JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG">JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG</a>
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>
RICHARD KLEINDIENST, SR.	MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS COORDINATOR	(203) 688-3912	<a href="mailto:RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG">RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG</a>
MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2563	<a href="mailto:MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG">MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG</a>
CAROL LUDDY	EMERGENCY CREDENTIALING PROGRAM COORDINATOR	(203) 688-5544	<a href="mailto:CAROL.LUDDY@YNHH.ORG">CAROL.LUDDY@YNHH.ORG</a>