

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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HIGH

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Threat Level

July 8, 2005

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 hospital 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 was held at the Westport Police Department on July 6, and the next is scheduled for July 12 at the Mohegan Sun Fire Department. 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.

Congress Abstract Submission Deadline Approaching

- 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 deadline is 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_abstract_s.html.

Emergency Notification System (ENS)

- Discussions are currently underway with the three delivery network hospitals regarding the implementation of the system-wide ENS targeted for September 2005. This system will rapidly notify appropriate staff of an emergency by phone, pager, PDA and other relevant communication modes and will support a coordinated response to a large-scale disaster across the system hospitals. Greenwich Hospital has been using the ENS and is pleased with its effectiveness and efficiency. For questions regarding the ENS, please contact Rick Kleindienst, Sr., at (203) 688-3912 or richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org.

Threat Level Change Targeted to Mass Transit Sector

- In light of the Thursday terrorist attacks in London, U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff announced that the United States government is raising the threat level from Code Yellow – or Elevated – to Code Orange – or High – targeted only to the mass transit portion of the transportation sector. This only includes regional and inter-city passenger rail, subways and metropolitan bus systems. DHS is asking for increased vigilance in other transportation systems has indicated that the United States has no specific, credible information suggesting an imminent attack in the United States. More information is available on the DHS website at: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

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/natlconf.html>.

Smallpox Vaccination Clinic in August

- A smallpox vaccination clinic will be held on Monday, August 15, 1-5 pm, at the University of Connecticut Occupational/Environmental Health Clinic in Farmington. All volunteer or professional staff recruited for participation in smallpox vaccination clinics are eligible to be vaccinated including vaccinators, administrators and support staff. All those vaccinated are covered by federal compensation law should an adverse event occur related to receiving the smallpox vaccination. Please refer to the attached memorandum from Dr. Richard Melchreit, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, for more information on this vaccination clinic.

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Emergency Credentialing Program

- Over 3,430 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.

Training/Education

- Eighteen thousand one hundred nineteen (18,119) 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.

Mandatory Connecticut Pre-Event Vaccination System Training

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has required all acute care hospitals to maintain a minimum of two staff persons who are trained to use and access the CT-PVS database. Two training dates have been scheduled in July to support meeting this deliverable which has a deadline of August 30, 2005. Seats are still available for both trainings, July 12 and July 21, and hospitals are strongly encouraged to enroll their two identified individuals as soon as possible through <http://ct.train.org>. For questions, please contact Rory Angulo, MD, MBA, at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7691.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

- Preparations are underway for the next MRC recruitment campaign for returning and first-year students enrolled in the Yale University Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health. Recruitment flyers are being developed for inclusion in student enrollment packets to be sent out in July. To date, the Medical Reserve Corps program has recruited and trained over 300 students to support the YNHHS delivery network hospitals during a large-scale disaster. Please contact Richard Kleindienst, Sr., at (203) 688-3912 or richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org for further information.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY & TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE	7/14/05	8:30 AM	CHA
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	7/21/05	10:00 AM	CB 1048
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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