

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 released the *Emergency Preparedness Guide*, a valuable new resource for homeowners. The guide is a result of a collaborative effort between the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and the Homeownership Alliance. "The *Emergency Preparedness Guide* gives homeowners practical measures they can take now to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for any possible emergencies," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. The guide is available for download from the DHS website at: http://www.homeownershipalliance.com/documents/emergency_final_000.pdf.

Training/Education

- 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, has been extended to mid-February. Physicians completing the pilot will receive 1.0 CME. Please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org with questions or comments.
- Additional versions of EM 102, including a CD with narration, are under development and will be shared with southern tier hospitals when available.
- Work has begun on Emergency Management 103 (EM 103), a further enhancement of EM 102 that provides basic information on the disaster response needs of special populations, including the elderly, children, disabled and non-English speaking individuals.

JCAHO Update

- As a reminder, if portions of hospital emergency management plans were implemented due to the recent inclement weather, these incidents may be documented and used to fulfill JCAHO exercise requirements.

Standard Influenza Vaccine Available

- In response to a change announced by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, standard influenza vaccine is now available for all interested individuals, regardless of age or level of patient contact. As the flu season has not yet reached its peak, vaccination is still recommended and will provide protection. Call the DPH Influenza Hotline at (800) 830-9426 for more information.

Hospital Capacity Assessment Report

- YNHHS OEP continues to report on southern tier hospital capacity to DPH each Thursday, including adequacy of clean water and electricity, pharmacy and medical supplies, blood supply, staffing, security and equipment (i.e. monitors, ventilators, IV pumps, etc.). Hospitals are reminded to report any changes in status to Richard Kleindienst, Sr. at 203-688-3912 or Richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org before 9:00 am Thursday. Your continued support of these reports is appreciated.

CDC Health Update: Revised Interim Guidance for Late-Season Influenza Vaccination

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a revised interim guidance document regarding late-season influenza vaccination. According to the CDC, influenza activity does not appear to have peaked yet and could still continue for several months. For this reason, late-season vaccination can offer protection against influenza this season and as a result, the CDC continues to recommend aggressive efforts to vaccinate people in priority groups; vaccination of persons in non-priority groups may be expanded based upon local vaccine supply situations. The revised interim guidance document is available for download from the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/pdf/flu-vaccine-late-season-guidance.pdf>.

Biodosimetry Functional Drill

- In order to assess competency, the State of Connecticut Biodosimetry Laboratory is coordinating a lymphocyte isolation functional drill, scheduled for late February. An analysis of the drill results will provide the State Biodosimetry Laboratory with a chance to assess the effectiveness of the training provided to Level A laboratories participating in the biodosimetry initiative. Your facility's participation is encouraged and will contribute to fulfillment of your drills and exercise commitment to DPH. Please contact Dr. Joe Albanese at (203) 688-3316 or joseph.albanese@ynhh.org for more information.

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TOPOFF3 Update

- A mandatory 1-day training program for TOPOFF3 controllers and evaluators will be held at the Coast Guard Academy during the week of March 28 – April 1, 2005. Mukesh Roy will distribute registration forms to the individuals previously identified by the hospitals when they become available. Hospital funding for TOPOFF3 participation may be used to reimburse costs associated with attendance at this training.

Radiation Management: Background Information for the Public

- It is increasingly important for the public health and healthcare delivery workforce to be familiar with the risks and consequences associated with a radiological event, so that they in turn can educate the general public with whom they have contact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made the following resources available to address this need:
 - A fact sheet entitled, “*Population Monitoring After a Release of Radioactive Material*” designed to help people understand how public health officials would monitor people following a radiological event and how this monitoring could be used to protect people’s health. The fact sheet can be downloaded from the CDC website at: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/populationmonitoring.asp>.
 - A website link to “*What We Learn About Radiation Threats from Movies—Fact or Fiction*” which helps answer questions about dirty bombs and how to protect yourself and loved ones in case of a radiation threat. Visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/movies.asp>.

Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance

- Nine southern tier hospitals continue to provide the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health with daily reports of ED chief complaint data, a potentially important early warning of an emerging infectious disease or other exposure. DPH will continue to make \$2,000 available to any additional hospitals interested in participating through February 28, 2005. Please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org for more information.

WHO Debates Influenza Drug Rules

- World Health Organization (WHO) Executive board members met on January 24, 2005 to find common ground on how countries should address any future influenza pandemic, especially a potential human variant of Avian influenza (H5N1). The Avian influenza resolution debated by the WHO Executive board included ways to strengthen disease surveillance, boost research on a vaccine, and stockpile the drug when it comes onto the market. More information is available at: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apscience_story.asp?category=1500&slug=Bird%20Flu.

CDC Influenza Update

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated “*Infection Control Measures for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in Health-Care Facilities*.” This document can be downloaded from the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcarefacilities.htm>.

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN A NUCLEAR OR RADIOLOGICAL TERRORIST INCIDENT HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/NUCLEAR05/DEFAULT.ASP	2/3/05	1:00 PM EST	CDC SATELLITE BROADCAST
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS-OPERATIONS LEVEL (PER-220) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	2/22-23/05	8:00 AM	DHS/BRAINARD FIELD
SENIOR OFFICIALS WORKSHOP FOR WMD AND TERRORISM INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS (MGT-312) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	2/24/05	9:00 AM	CLINTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEDICAL ASPECTS OF CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT-MANAGING THE UNTHINKABLE IN THE ERA OF ASYMMETRICAL THREAT: PREPARING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS FOR NEW CHALLENGES IN THE MEDICAL ARENA HTTP://WWW.MARKETACCESS.ORG/EVENT_CONSMGMT.ASP	2/24-25/05	8:25 AM	WASHINGTON, DC

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SEPC	2/2/05	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF RM
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	2/4/05	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406

CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

ARNOLD J L, HALPERN P, TSAI M C, SMITHLINE H. MASS CASUALTY TERRORIST BOMBINGS: A COMPARISON OF OUTCOMES BY BOMBING TYPE. ANNALS OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE; 43(2); 263-273.

LARKIN G L, ARNOLD J L. ETHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN EMERGENCY PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE TO ACTS OF TERRORISM. PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE; 18(3); 170-178.

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