

## Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

Volume 3, Issue 5

Threat Level

February 4, 2005

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced another important step towards a safer America by completing an environmental review for the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) facility at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland. The NBACC facility, managed by Homeland Security's Science & Technology directorate, will strengthen America's ability to defend against biological terrorism by addressing the need for scientific research to better anticipate, prevent, and mitigate the consequences of biological attacks. Completing this environmental review and implementing its recommendations are part of an ongoing approach of engagement and cooperation with the Ft. Detrick and Frederick, Maryland, communities. The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center fact sheet can be downloaded from: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press\\_release/press\\_release\\_0611.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0611.xml).

### Training/Education

- Eleven thousand six hundred fifty eight (11,658) 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, 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](mailto: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 YNHHS delivery network and 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.

### National Response Plan Special Broadcast

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a second broadcast of *The National Response Plan: One Team, One Goal – A Safer More Secure America* supporting the National Response Plan (NRP) on February 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The NRP was developed by the Department of Homeland Security to replace hazard-specific federal plans with a common framework for federal departments and agencies to provide emergency and disaster assistance to state, Tribal and local governments. For more information, visit the FEMA website at: [www.usafa.fema.gov](http://www.usafa.fema.gov).

### 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](mailto:Richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org) before 9:00 am Thursday. Your continued support of these reports is appreciated.

### CDC Announces New Strategies to Promote Continued Influenza Vaccination

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced two strategies for use this season to help healthcare providers continue efforts to vaccinate individuals at risk for the serious complications of influenza. CDC is immediately making available the remaining 3.1 million doses of influenza vaccine in the federal government's emergency reserve to Sanofi Pasteur (formerly Aventis Pasteur). In addition, in areas where there are ample supplies of influenza vaccine, CDC endorsed the efforts of state and local health officials to broaden the groups of people recommended to receive vaccine. CDC is taking steps for the remainder of this flu season to make limited amounts of Vaccines for Children program (VFC) influenza vaccine that currently exists within states available to state health departments for non-VFC use where the demand for influenza vaccine among VFC eligible children has already been met. Additional information can be downloaded from the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### Standard Influenza Vaccine Available

- In response to a change announced by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, standard influenza vaccine continues to be available for all interested individuals, regardless of age or level of patient contact. According to Dr. Louise Dembry, "The flu season is not over and even if cases are in decline, we may get a second peak in case 4-8 weeks later." Vaccination is still recommended and will provide protection. Call the DPH Influenza Hotline at (800) 830-9426 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. Registration forms will be sent by TOPOFF3 planners directly to the individuals previously identified by the southern tier hospitals. Hospital funding for TOPOFF3 participation may be used to reimburse costs associated with attendance at this training. Please notify Mukesh Roy at (203) 688-2563 or [Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org) if your controllers and evaluators do not receive registration materials by March 1, 2005.

### 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](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org) for more information.

### Emergency Credentialing Program Expansion

- Letters were sent on January 13, 2005 to all acute care hospital CEOs regarding the emergency credentialing program expansion and requesting that each hospital designate a point person to coordinate program implementation. A copy of the proposed appendix for paramedics and the paramedic recruitment brochure was enclosed for review with the CEO letter. Please provide the name and contact information for this individual before February 18, 2005 to Elaine Forte, Program Development Manager, YNHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness at (203) 688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org) or Carol Luddy, RN, Emergency Credentialing Coordinator at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org). Feedback on the proposed paramedic appendix should be directed to Elaine Forte. Over 100,000 Emergency Credentialing Brochures will be mailed to Connecticut licensed and professional individuals on February 14, 2005. To reach those who may not receive a program brochure by mail, recruitment posters will be mailed to hospital contacts for distribution to internal departments.

### Biodosimetry Functional Drill

- In order to assess competency, the Statewide Biodosimetry Laboratory operated by YNHHS is coordinating a lymphocyte isolation functional drill, scheduled for late February. An analysis of the drill results will provide the Statewide Biodosimetry Laboratory with a chance to assess the effectiveness of the training provided to Level A laboratories participating in the biodosimetry initiative. The participation of your facility 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](mailto:joseph.albanese@ynhh.org) for more information.

### Satellite Broadcast

- OEP was pleased to host a satellite broadcast this week entitled "Redefining Readiness: Terrorism Planning through the Eyes of the Public." Viewers learned that there are flawed assumptions about the public's response in an emergency. Far fewer people than expected follow official instructions and recommendations. This noncompliance results from a lack of confidence in plans that the public feels are made without their concerns and best interests in mind. Recommendations made suggest that the planning process needs to be redefined to include an active role for the public. For more information about this topic please go to [www.cacsh.org](http://www.cacsh.org). Look for announcements of future satellite broadcasts to be hosted by OEP in the briefing.

### Smallpox Vaccine Dryvax License Extension

- In a January 31, 2005 letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wyeth Research extended the Smallpox Vaccine Dryvax license of lots 4020076 and 4020077 to April, 2005 and lot 4030020 to May, 2005. The letter can be downloaded from: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/wyethlicense.asp>.

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

### CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

**RODOPLU U, ARNOLD J L, TOKYAY R, ERSOY G, CETINER S, YUCEL T. MASS-CASUALTY TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, NOVEMBER 2003: REPORT OF THE EVENTS AND THE PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE. PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE 2004; 19(2); 133-145.**

**ARNOLD J L, LEVINE B N, MANMATHA R, LEE F, SHENOY P, TSAI M C, IBRAHIM T K, O'BRIEN D J, WALSH D A. INFORMATION-SHARING IN OUT-OF-HOSPITAL DISASTER RESPONSE: THE FUTURE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE 2004; 19(2); 201-207.**

**ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
A SEMINAR ON CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS <a href="mailto:NEP@COURTESYASSOC.COM">NEP@COURTESYASSOC.COM</a> RIC FINN (401) 849-0400 EXT 218	2/8/05	9:00 AM	CT DEPT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, EAST HARTFORD
THE NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN – ONE TEAM, ONE GOAL – A SAFER MORE SECURE AMERICA <a href="http://www.usfa.fema.gov">WWW.USFA.FEMA.GOV</a>	2/16/05	2:00 PM ET & 7:00 PM ET	FEMA 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 <a href="http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp">HTTP://WWW.MARKETACCESS.ORG/EVENT_CONSMGMT.ASP</a>	2/24-25/05	8:25 AM	WASHINGTON, DC

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMMITTEE	2/10/05	8:30 AM	CHA
SCAC	2/10/05	2:00 PM	OEP

**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>
DARRIAN FITZPATRICK	MASH COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2577	<a href="mailto:DARRIAN.FITZPATRICK@YNHH.ORG">DARRIAN.FITZPATRICK@YNHH.ORG</a>