

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

1 Church Street, 5th Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · Center@ynhh.org

ELEVATED

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Threat Level

February 11, 2005

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 in providing capacity reporting is appreciated.

Training/Education

- Twelve thousand one hundred and one (12,101) 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Additional courses under development include Incident Command Systems for Healthcare, Principles of Decontamination and PPE, and an intermediate level mental health program. For more information on any of these courses, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.

Pharmaceutical Stockpiling

- Despite ongoing follow-up by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), concerns with the memorandum of understanding developed by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security related to the \$10,000 funding allocation for first responder pharmaceutical stockpiles continue. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health is advising hospitals not to sign the agreement. Hospitals that have already signed the agreement should delay any actions until a suitable amendment is drafted and delivered. Please refer any questions to James Paturas at (203) 688-3496 or james.paturas@ynhh.org.

Mental Health Annex Presentation

- Dr. David Schonfeld presented the *Hospital Emergency Management Plan Annex for Mental Health Needs in Emergencies* to the Southern Tier BT Advisory Committee on February 10, 2005. Key guiding principles of the plan include:
 - All emergencies create mental health needs
 - Mental health needs to be incorporated in HEICS
 - A range of mental health services will need to be delivered to a variety of populations at a multitude of treatment sitesThe annex will be distributed to committee representatives within the next two weeks for review and comment.

Avian Influenza (H5N1) Update

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an update reviewing the current epidemiologic situation in Asia and the U. S. surveillance, laboratory diagnostic, and infection control recommendations for avian influenza A (H5N1). More information is available at the CDC website from: <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00221>.

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 cases 4-8 weeks later." Vaccination is still recommended and will provide protection. Call the DPH Influenza Hotline at (800) 830-9426 for more information.

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.

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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 if your controllers and evaluators do not receive registration materials by March 1, 2005.
- A meeting of the TOPOFF3 public information officer working group will be held on February 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Mystic Hilton. Hospitals interested in submitting specific injects to test their organizations public information response must send an appropriate public information representative to that meeting; an information sheet is attached to this briefing.

Emergency Credentialing Program Expansion

- Recruitment brochures for the voluntary Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program will be mailed by February 18, 2005 to nearly 96,000 practitioners who are licensed by the State. To reach those who may not receive a program brochure by direct mail, a supply of recruitment information posters will be mailed to hospital-designated contacts for distribution to internal departments. If hospitals haven't done so already, please forward contact information for the hospital designated point person to Carol Luddy at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org. In order to help prepare hospital managers for questions about the program that may be raised by their staff, a press release is being drafted for discretionary inclusion in hospital employee newsletters. In addition to the press release, Carol Luddy, RN, Emergency Credentialing Coordinator, is available for program-related questions or to provide a brief onsite presentation to managers or staff. Carol Luddy is available to meet at hospitals to discuss the program.

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. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health 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.

Biodosimetry Functional Drill

- 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 an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the training provided to Level A laboratories participating in the biodosimetry initiative. All hospitals are requested to participate and contribute to fulfillment of the drills and exercise commitment to DPH. Please contact Dr. Joe Albanese at (203) 688-3316 or joseph.albanese@ynhh.org for more information.

European Master in Disaster Medicine Website Link

- A link to the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response website has been added to the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) website as an associated institution collaborating on the European Master in Disaster Medicine program based at the University of Eastern Piedmont in Novara, Italy, and the Free University of Brussels. EMDM "is an international coalition to provide disaster management education and training to medical students around the globe. For more information, please visit EMDM at: <http://www.dismedmaster.com>.

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.

RODOPLU U, ARNOLD J L, TOKYAY R, ERSOY G, CETINER S, YUCEL T. IMPACT OF THE TERRORIST BOMBINGS OF THE NEVE SHALOM AND BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUES ON A HOSPITAL IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY. ACAD EMERG MED 2005; 12(2): 135-141.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	2/17/05	10:00 AM	OEP

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
THE NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN – ONE TEAM, ONE GOAL – A SAFER MORE SECURE AMERICA WWW.USFA.FEMA.GOV	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) 566-1188	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) 566-1188	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
WMD THREAT & RISK ASSESSMENT (MGT-310) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	3/8-10/05	8:00 AM DAILY	DHS, BRAINARD FIELD

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG
JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG
SCOTT SELIG	EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2587	SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG
RICHARD KLEINDIENST, SR.	MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS COORDINATOR	(203) 688-3912	RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG
MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2563	MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG
DARRIAN FITZPATRICK	MASH COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2577	DARRIAN.FITZPATRICK@YNHH.ORG