

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

December 23, 2005

Pandemic Influenza: **New**

- On December 13, 2005 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warning letters to nine companies marketing bogus flu products behind claims that their products could be effective against preventing the avian flu or other forms of influenza. The FDA is not aware of any scientific evidence that demonstrates the safety or effectiveness of these products for treating or preventing avian flu and the agency is concerned that the use of these products could harm consumers or interfere with conventional treatments. To read further please visit <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01274.html>.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of December 16, 2005 were 139 cases and 71 deaths.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided key facts and answers to frequently asked questions related to avian influenza. Please visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/general/faq.html> for more information.
- In the event of pandemic influenza, businesses will play a key role in protecting employees' health and safety as well as limiting the negative impact to the economy and society. Planning for pandemic influenza is critical. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a checklist for large businesses. It identifies important, specific activities large businesses can do to prepare, many of which will also help in other emergencies. Further information can be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov> and <http://www.cdc.gov/business>
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a state and local pandemic influenza planning checklist. Further information can be found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov> and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/pdf/PandemicFluChecklist.pdf>
- Guidelines and recommendations for airline cleaning crews, maintenance crew, and baggage/package and cargo handlers for airlines returning from areas affected by avian influenza A (H5N1) have been developed by The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Standard and droplet precautions are appropriate, and hand hygiene remain the focus of infection control. The CDC has not recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1 viruses. For further information please visit http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_airlines_cleaning_update_120505.htm
- The official U.S. government web site for information on pandemic flu and avian influenza is <http://pandemicflu.gov/>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resources for Pandemic Flu <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic.htm>
- The latest information regarding avian influenza can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/research.htm>
Pandemic influenza related research

Pandemic Influenza - Stockpiling of Disposable Ventilators: **Updated**

- Based on guidance found in Supplement 3, Healthcare Planning, of the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, The Yale New Haven Health System delivery network hospital colleagues and their southern tier hospitals have begun to discuss the stockpiling of portable and disposable ventilators as part of each hospital's pandemic flu planning. In order to ensure consistent statewide respiratory care capacity, specific recommendations regarding type and model of ventilators, numbers to be purchased, considerations for pediatric patients and potential revisions to infection control practices based on use of these types of ventilators are being sought from the statewide Respiratory Care Directors group and/or the state respiratory care association. Further information will be shared as it becomes available. For more information, please contact Elaine Forte at 203-688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.

Upcoming Flu Season: **Updated**

- During the week of December 10, 2005, influenza activity occurred at a low level in the United States. California reported regional influenza activity. Five states (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, and Utah) and the District of Columbia reported local influenza activity. Thirty states (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) and New York City reported sporadic influenza activity. For more information please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>.

License Extended for the Smallpox Vaccine: **New**

- Wyeth received approval for BLA Supplement 101106/5069 for extension of Smallpox Vaccine Dryvax® kits through February, 2006. Please also note that the storage period of the vaccine after reconstitution with diluent continues to be 90 days. For specific package lot numbers, please visit: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/pdf/wyethletter3_0nov05.pdf

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Clinician Video on Treating Children Exposed to Chemicals used in Bioterrorist Attacks:

Updated

- On December 6, 2005, the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a twenty-seven minute video on *The Decontamination of Children: Preparedness and Response for Hospital Emergency Departments*. It provides training for emergency responders and hospital emergency department staff regarding decontamination to children after being exposed to hazardous chemicals during a bioterrorist attack or other disaster. This video provides a step-by-step demonstration of the decontamination process in real time and trains clinicians about the nuances of treating infants and children, who require special attention during decontamination procedures. A short clip from "The Decontamination of Children" can be found online at <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/decontam.htm>. A free, single copy of the video—available in DVD or VHS format—may be ordered by calling 1-800-358-9295 or by sending an E-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov.

Training/Education: Updated

- Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital Based First Receivers (EM120) is now available on the YNHHS-CoE learning management system. The thirty minute awareness level course meets OSHA defined competencies for first receivers to respond to a hazardous exposure. This course is recommended for all emergency department staff (clinical and non-clinical) and any other health care workers with potential roles near a hospital decontamination zone. The course may be accessed at <http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/>.
- Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103) on-line course is being created in different formats to better meet the varied needs of different healthcare organizations. A narrated CD-ROM conducive to instructor-led workshops, such as new employee orientation at hospitals will be provided as well as a VHS (video) version will also be available. To obtain a copy of these resources as they become available, please contact Mark Schneider mark.schneider@ynhh.org

Planning for the Needs of Special Populations (Free Broadcast): New

- The UC Berkeley Center for Infectious Disease Preparedness and the University of Albany Center for Public Health Preparedness are pleased to present a special satellite broadcast inspired by Hurricane Katrina. Planning for the Needs of Special Populations Jan 12, 2006 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. This program is FREE. To get more information or to register, please visit <http://www.ualbanycph.org> or call 518-486-7921.

Emergency Credentialing Program: New

- Over 100 representatives from across the country who are responsible for the planning and implementation of the Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Voluntary Healthcare Personnel (ESAR-VHP) in the respective states met in Washington, DC last week to discuss the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Gulf region hospitals and lessons learned as healthcare volunteers were recruited and deployed to help support hospital resource needs. Although activation of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMACs) provided over 18,000 civilians and 43,000 National Guard troops, inconsistent language in EMAC legislation between Connecticut and each of the Gulf states ultimately prevented the deployment of Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP) volunteers who were eager to offer their expertise and represent our state in the relief efforts. Volunteers who participate in the ECP are ensured that through comprehensive Connecticut EMAC legislation, adequate liability and workers compensation coverage is available to them when deployed out of state as part of Connecticut's Medical Reserve Corps. Processing volunteer requests through authorized EMAC channels also ensures that our states resources will not be depleted and that volunteers are sent when and where they are needed most. Consensus at the meeting was that each state should work to enact or revise EMAC their legislation so that appropriate healthcare professionals who are enrolled in state based ESAR-VHP systems can be readily identified and deployed with full liability and workers compensation protections. Model legislation, including accommodation for deployment of ESAR-VHP members, will be drafted by Georgetown's Center for Law and Public Health Policy and offered to each state for consideration.

Large-scale disaster like hurricanes Katrina and Rita will not only stretch the facility, equipment and financial resources of hospitals in Connecticut, but will greatly strain their human resources as well. The State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals (ECP) supports personnel surge capacity during an emergency management response. Each hospital should have a designated individual within the Incident Command System structure who is responsible for the assessment of personnel capacity and is familiar with the ECP program. Participating hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to support the minimal resources needed at their institution for program recruitment and management. To date, 3,985 volunteers representing all disciplines and all hospitals throughout the state are enrolled in the Program. Professionals interest in the program can access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuildng.html> or by contacting Carol Luddy, RN, Emergency Credentialing Program Coordinator via phone at (203) 688-3224 or via email at ECP@ynhh.org.

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 MEETING	1/12/05	8:30 A.M.	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN	1/11/06	1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.	TO REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT VISIT HTTP://WWW.HSRNET.NET/AHRQ/CARE4KIDS
PLANNING FOR THE NEEDS OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS	1/12/06	10:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AND 4:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. EST	TO REGISTRAR CALL (518) 486-7921 OR VISIT HTTP://WWW.UALBANY.PHP.ORG

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