

Central CT Health District

Mass Dispensing Area #28

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

July 2006



**NEWINGTON
VOLUNTEERS!**

Summer Greetings!

These newsletters will keep you informed regarding various aspects of public health planning for emergency response as well as training opportunities.

Central CT Health District now serves the towns of **Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield**. CCHD maintains its central office in the Wethersfield Town Hall with satellite offices in the Town Halls of Berlin, Newington and Rocky Hill.

See CCHD's Web site at www.ccthd.org for information regarding services, health, emergency preparedness, links to other sites and lists of upcoming events.

Emergency Planning

The District receives funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) which was awarded funding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The purpose of this funding is to continue to enhance the State's bioterrorism response capacities. DPH is funding 47 full-time local health departments and districts in Connecticut to assist them in developing the infrastructure needed for public health preparedness planning.

CCHD is one of 41 Mass Dispensing Areas (MDAs) and is the lead agency for planning response for MDA 28. Planning is based on an all-hazards model.

A mass dispensing model for medications or vaccinations via Point of Dispensing clinics referred to as PODs is in the active development and testing mode. All PODs and other emergency responders will operate under an organizational structure called the Incident Command System (ICS).

Some recent activities of the Health District include:

- Continued participation in training related to ICS, shelter management, quarantine & isolation, disease entities, evacuation, POD, special needs population and volunteer management, risk communication, Health Alert Network (HAN) and others.
- Participation in drills and exercises with CDC, DPH & community partners.
- Continued development of plans for Isolation & Quarantine, Worker Health & Safety, and Mass Immunization & Prophylaxis Plan to include Pandemic Flu, Smallpox, Anthrax and Plague.



NEW PUBLICATION from the HEALTH DISTRICT: “Caring for Someone Living with Alzheimer’s or a related Dementia” prepared by Shelly Waram, RN, BSN, MSN during her last semester in the University of Hartford Community Health Graduate Nursing Program. Pamphlet available at Health District offices, Town Halls, Community & Senior Centers and Libraries.

Volunteers

Volunteers are critical to the success of preparation and response. Point of Dispensing Clinics (PODs) will be staffed primarily by volunteers from the community.

The District is very grateful for all of you who have volunteered, serve in a first responder capacity or are a town employee.

We still need more volunteers since some volunteers are no longer able to participate due to moving, illness or other commitments.

There are over 400 medical and non-medical volunteers who have already agreed to respond if the District needs assistance to respond to natural or man-made events whether accidental or intentional (terrorist). These events could involve biological, chemical or radiological events and could involve mass vaccination or medication dispensing clinics, mass care, evacuation, quarantine/isolation or shelters (emergency or sheltering-in-place). Planning involves all of these issues as well as coordinating with town emergency planning and trying to anticipate the special needs of children, the elderly and others.

Volunteers are from all walks of life. All types of skills are needed both medical and non-medical. Some of the POD roles are: vaccinators, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, greeters, forms distribution, data entry, people flow, security, safety, supply distribution, teaching, child care, assistance for those with special needs, translators and anything else one can think of for a clinic site.

- If you have already volunteered, refer a friend or relative.
- If you have not already volunteered & are interested, you may :
 - Call Judy Torpey @ 721-2816 or
 - Email judy.torpey@wethersfieldct.com



Keep Your Contact Information Up-to-Date

Don’t forget, to call (721-2816) or email judy.torpey@wethersfieldct.com if your contact information changes. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THESE CRITICAL POSITIONS

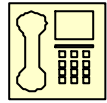
Get involved in these early stages of planning and training.

Help to plan for Pandemic Flu and other events. Bring your skills – whatever they may be. Try something new! Your involvement depends on your interest & time available.

- **INCIDENT COMMAND**
 - Leaders
 - Risk Communication/Public Information
 - Safety and security
 - Liaison
 - Scribes for Incident Command and other sections
- **PLANNING SECTION**
 - Volunteer Management
 - Intake/ID-Badging/ Credentialing
 - Orientation/ Scheduling/Labor Pool
 - Demobilization and follow-up planning
 - Technical Specialists
- **OPERATIONS SECTION**
 - **Medical**
 - Triage & medical evaluation
 - Pharmacy – prep, dispensing & security
 - Educators & Exit review
 - Psychosocial support & Special needs
 - **Non-Medical** – Greeter, forms
 - **Security** - Patient flow, supplies, traffic
- **LOGISTICS SECTION**
 - Materials
 - Facilities – Management, maintenance & HazWaste
 - Communications/IT/Computers/Software
 - Runners & Telecom
 - Food management
 - Employee Support - Medical & psychosocial
- **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**
 - Medical Records
 - Payroll
 - Cost & Claims

? INTERESTED?

For more info:



Contact:
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Emergency
Preparedness
Coordinator

721-2816

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FEATURED SECTION: INCIDENT COMMAND

Don't be intimidated by the title. The "Incident Command System" is an organizational system commonly used by all emergency/disaster responders. It facilitates communication, planning, logistics (supplies), records, training, operations, facilities management and safety as well as other functions. IC minimizes confusion and duplication while it maximizes the use of resources.



Interested in Free Training?
Register on: CONNECTICUT TRAIN
[See Instructions Below]

UPCOMING TRAINING OF INTEREST

- **Role of Pharmacists in Mass Dispensing and Vaccination for Public Health Emergencies** – online (Focuses on critical role in Points of Dispensing [PODs] clinics) CEUs/CE available
- **Overview of Pharmacists’ Roles in Chemical/Biological Public Health Emergencies** – online (Familiarize with events, response and role) CEUs/CE
- **Incident Command System for Public Health Professionals** –, Capitol Avenue, Hartford (Awareness level course)
- **Incident Command/IS100** – multiple dates/ FEMA online
- **NIMS/IS-700 Nat’l Incident Mngmnt System**–multiple dates/ FEMA online
- **CT DPH Fundamentals of Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications** - 08/16/06 at Mohegan Sun (Introductory-awareness level course)
- **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Guidance and Overview**: 23 min. video
- **Smallpox Vaccination Train-the-Trainer**: Part A: online; Part B: 8/24/06
- **“Using Municipal Strengths to Build a Regional Response to Emergency Planning and Recovery”** – 9/21/06 @ CCSU (full day)

TRAIN CONNECTICUT

First responders, town employees and CCHD volunteers are eligible to register. You may take any course unless it is restricted or priority has been given to particular disciplines. Courses may be site, distance learning, web-based, or exclusively for people in a District. Search for courses. Create a personal online transcript. Provide or read feedback on courses. Sign up for emails about new courses. The Training Finder Real – Time Affiliate Integrated Network, or TRAIN, is the nation’s premier learning resource for those who protect the public’s health. TRAIN is a project of the Public Health Foundation with funding from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, participating states and CDC. TRAIN is accessed through <http://www.ct.train.org/>. managed by CT DPH.



How to Register:

<http://ct.train.org/>

1. Select “**Create Account**” on “**Left**” button
2. Read “**TRAIN**” Policies – Click “**I agree to etc.**” box then “**Next**” button
3. **Fill-in** required fields – Click “**Next**” button
4. Click on **down arrow** next to “**Select Agency**”
5. Select “**Smallpox Preparedness & Response**” from the menu
6. Click on **down arrow** next to “**Select Smallpox Preparedness & Response**”
7. Select “**Mass Vaccination Areas**” from the menu
8. Click on the **down arrow** next to “**Select Mass Vaccination Areas**”
9. Select “**28**”-“**CCHD**” from the menu. Click on “**Next**”
10. Select **two(2)** roles, then **scroll** to the bottom of the screen and then select “**Volunteer**” as your **third(3)** in “**Professional Roles**” and click “**Next**”
11. Click on “**Official Public Health Agencies**” box and select “**Local**” from the menu as **one of your three (3)** “**Work Settings**” and click on the “**Next**”
12. Selecting Demographic information is optional
13. **Click** on the “**Next**” button **to complete your registration****

****Once you have registered,**

go back to [Http://ct.train.org](http://ct.train.org) to select your training:

1. **Type** in your “**Login Name**” and “**Password**”
2. **Click** on the “**Course Search**” button
3. **Click** on “**Browse My State Only**” that is in the menu on the left side of the screen and select your course or review the upcoming courses listed on the center or right side of the screen.



PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

Public Health Emergency Response Act (PHERA)

The Connecticut PHERA Act gives our state government the authority to act in a public health crisis situation. Some of PHERA's provisions will be explored in this article.

PHERA gives the Governor and the Legislature the authority to declare a public health emergency. This declaration may lead the Governor to request the President to release the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of drugs to the State to help mitigate the emergency.

PHERA requires the Public Health Department to update and evaluate their emergency response plans.

PHERA offers liability protection for all workers working within the scope of their duties under the public health emergency.

PHERA defines and establishes rules for quarantine and isolation. The rules of quarantine and isolation are established to address individuals, group and geographic areas. PHERA also spells out the probate and appeals process for quarantine and isolation.

PHERA also gives authority for Public health to order vaccinations or medications.

PHERA also expands the list of persons who can use their license i.e. out of state medical licenses, and expands the roles of certain medical professions to help mitigate the public health emergency.

Preparing for the Next Pandemic

Many scientists believe it is only a matter of time until the next influenza pandemic occurs. The severity of the next pandemic cannot be predicted, but modeling studies suggest that the impact of a pandemic on the United States could be substantial. In the absence of any control measures (vaccination or medications), it has been

estimated that in the United States a "medium-level" pandemic could cause 89,000 to 207,000 deaths, 314,000 and 734,000 hospitalizations, 18 to 42 million outpatient visits, and another 20 to 47 million people being sick. Between 15% and 35% of the U.S. population could be affected by an influenza pandemic, and the economic impact could range between \$71.3 and \$166.5 billion.

Influenza pandemics are different from many of the threats for which public health and health-care systems are currently planning:

- A pandemic will last much longer than most public health emergencies and may include "waves" of influenza activity separated by months. In 20th century pandemics, a second wave of influenza activity occurred 3 to 12 months after the first wave.
- The numbers of health-care workers and first responders available to work can be expected to be reduced. They will be at high risk of illness through exposure in the community and in health-care settings, and some may have to miss work to care for ill family members.
- Resources in many locations could be limited, depending on the severity and spread of an influenza pandemic.

Because of these differences and the expected size of an influenza pandemic, it is important to plan preparedness activities that will permit a prompt and effective public health response.

For a printable copy of this article or more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu, or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).