



University of Connecticut Health Center

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Connecticut Health: Bioterrorism Preparedness

Model of Preparedness: the UCHC Fire Department

Over the last seventeen months, the UCHC Fire Department has become a statewide model of preparedness. The department has acquired a \$250,000 HazMat/ Special Operations Vehicle and will be receiving a Mass Decontamination trailer, both of which will support the Health Center and surrounding region. Deputy Fire Chief Carmine Centrella assisted with the design of the trailer in conjunction with the State's Military Department as well as co-chairing a work group that developed the Mass Decontamination Plan for the Capitol Region's first responders and hospitals.

Nine UCHC firefighters have been certified as tactical paramedics by the United States Department of Defense. This training allows them to operate in a hot zone involving terrorist attack, specialized Law Enforcement actions or mass casualty incidents in austere conditions. The majority of Health Center firefighters have received advanced training as Hazardous Materials Technicians. Additionally, the UCHC fire department is the only one in Connecticut that has at least one fire officer from each shift who has been trained in



Hazmat/ Special Operations Vehicle

Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings and Explosive Recognition by the U.S. Department of Justice in Socorro, New Mexico.

UCHC Fire and Police Departments, in coordination

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The UConn Health Center is active in virtually all 169 Connecticut towns and works to meet a wide range of community and public health needs.



Connecticut Smallpox Preparedness Program

Dr. Marcia Trape-Cardoso, Occupational Medicine, (860) 679-4564

The UConn Health Center has been intensively involved in the planning and implementation of the state's Smallpox Preparedness Program. This non-emergency smallpox vaccination targets a nucleus of health care workers, fire and E.M.S. first responders, and public health officers.

Under contract with the Department of Public Health, the Health Center's Genesis Team is fanning out throughout the state to assure that sufficient personnel are protected against smallpox in the event of an outbreak. These pre-event,

non-emergency vaccinations are being distributed through a voluntary program emphasizing education and screening, as well as a conscious decision by the recipient.

In the event of a smallpox outbreak, outbreak-specific guidance will be disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Smallpox, a severe viral infection that affects only humans, was eliminated from the world in 1977. Symptoms include fever, aches, vomiting, and a distinctive rash. Smallpox can be prevented with smallpox

vaccination. The widespread dissemination of the vaccine was discontinued in the United States in 1972.

As of **MAY 1st**, the Genesis Team has administered 205 smallpox vaccines to 26 UCHC employees, 27 Department of Public Health officers, 25 local Health District officers, 18 State troopers and the remaining number to health care personnel from the acute care hospitals of the state. Vaccine reactions until now have been minimal and within the expected normal reactions.

Greetings from the UConn Health Center!

As a state-supported institution, the UConn Health Center is committed to applying its resources to the needs of the citizens of Connecticut – and this includes the needs of the legislature!

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to extend an offer of assistance. Whether you need consultation on a complex health issue or assistance in developing health-related and scientifically sound legislation, our faculty and staff would welcome the opportunity to support you and your staff in tackling our state's health and public health concerns.

Peter J. Deckers, M.D.
Executive Vice President

"The deliberate release of smallpox as an epidemic disease is now regarded as a possibility, and the United States is taking precautions to deal with this possibility."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Ave.
Farmington, CT 06030-3967

Phone: (860) 679-3236
Fax: (860) 679-1101
Email: connecticuthealth@uchc.edu

WWW.CONNNECTICUTHEALTH.ORG



«FIRST NAME, MI» «LAST NAME»
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“The mission of CDC's National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) Program is to ensure the availability and rapid deployment of life-saving pharmaceuticals, antidotes, other medical supplies, and equipment necessary to counter the effects of nerve agents, biological pathogens, and chemical agents. The NPS Program stands ready for immediate deployment to any U.S. location in the event of a terrorist attack using a biological toxin or chemical agent directed against a civilian population.”

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention —

Bioterrorism Emergency Response Training Program: Preparing Connecticut's Public Health Workforce

The Bioterrorism Emergency Response Training Program, designed as a continuing education program for the members of Connecticut's public health workforce, is well underway. The training program prepares members of the public health workforce for the possibilities of bioterrorism in Connecticut by addressing the basic legal, environmental, epidemiological, logistical, and physical ramifications of an event of bioterrorism.

The program is being conducted by the University of Connecticut Health Center's Department of Community Medicine, under contract with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Workshops are free and open to public health workers and other health professionals in the state of Connecticut.

The program is comprised of five modules addressing the following topics:

- Organizing Volunteers for Emergency Preparedness

- Stress Management: Behavioral Health Disaster Response
- Public Health Law and Bioterrorism
- Environmental Bioterrorism Risks: Air, Food, Water
- Disease Outbreaks: Investigation and Surveillance

Each module consists of twelve hours of classroom instruction. Workshops are free, but space is limited and registration is required. Workshops will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Link Room and will be broadcast to interactive satellite locations sites at the Department of Public Health, the UConn Stamford Campus and Northwest AHEC at the Torrington Health District. Sessions will be videotape recorded.

For more information, contact Joan Segal (860-679-3446) or Holger Hansen (860-679-3402).

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with Health Center faculty and staff and Farmington Valley fire departments, have conducted a simulated contamination exercise in and around the Emergency Department.

This spring, a Bio-terrorism Emergency Preparedness Drill is scheduled in coordination with other Northern Tier Hospitals, many of which are part of the Connecticut Centers for Excellence. The drill is coordinated by the Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence and sponsored by the Department of Public Health, and draws together state emergency planning resources to test response protocols, communications, and readiness. Specific training will be identified and undertaken to improve readiness levels overall.

For more information, contact Carmine Cintrella, UCHC Fire Chief, at 860-679-3317 or via e-mail at centrella@nso2.uchc.edu