

# Central CT Health District

*Serving Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield*

*Mass Dispensing Area #28*

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

**WINTER 2010-11**



## **VOLUNTEERS & FLU CLINICS**

Volunteers came through once again with support for the Health District's Seasonal Flu Clinics. Almost fifty (50) volunteers supported the eight (8) clinics held in October and November in each of the four (4) towns. Many of the volunteers who were new during the H1N1 vaccination clinics returned. We now have a dedicated and trained core group of about one hundred (100) volunteers who have been actively involved in clinics for several years. They would provide a significant key to success if there were ever an emergency event when the Health District would be responsible to provide medications or vaccinations to Health District residents, workers and/or visitors in a short time frame.



## **LOCAL DISTRIBUTION SITE TEAM**

## **CONSIDER JOINING**

In an emergency event, medications/vaccine will have to be dispensed in a short period of time (48 hours for Anthrax meds, up to 10 days for Smallpox vaccine and others may vary). The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) will distribute medications/vaccine from their Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to the CT Department of Public Health SNS which in turn will distribute to CCHD's Local Distribution Site. CCHD assets will then be distributed to our local PODs (Point of Dispensing) clinics.

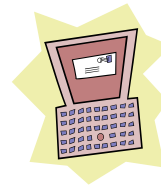
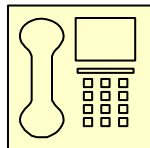
CCHD needs to form a team of trained individuals to assist with the receipt of the pallets from DPH. NO heavy lifting will be required. Town of Wethersfield staff will operate any lift devices. The team will then repackage the stockpile to amounts designated for the PODs and Closed PODs such as businesses, assisted living facilities that have agreed to dispense to employees, clients and their families.

At least two (2) shifts would be established and it will be located in a totally secure facility. NO prior experience is needed. Training will be provided and participation in planning and occasional drill/exercises will help to improve all aspects of CCHD's Plan.

## MEMBERS of the TEAM

The “jobs” are several and may overlap if a smaller supply is involved or if we decide in future planning that we don’t need as many positions. The MOST IMPORTANT qualification is a willingness to work with the TEAM toward the GOAL of getting meds/vaccine to people in the time frame needed.

- Site Manager: Organizes and directs all aspects of the Distribution Site and provides overall direction based on the Incident Action Plan, communicates with POD Commander and Section Chiefs as needed, assures that training is completed, conducts briefings, monitors team welfare and recommends alterations in plans based on feedback from team and others.
- Safety Officer: Assesses, monitors and assures the safety of all operations. Anticipates potentially hazardous and/or unsafe conditions. Has the authority and obligation to immediately alter, delay, suspend or terminate any and all operations deemed unsafe. Participates in designing safety training.
- Shipping/Receiving Leader: Oversees the shipping and receiving functions of SNS materials. Supervises loading and unloading and tracks medications/vaccine.
- Inventory Control Leader: Ensures adequate supply of medication/vaccine and monitors and tracks inventory supply levels as it is shipped to various sites.
- Quality Control Leader: Supervises the tracking of inventory and unit monitoring related to picking and shipping/receiving processes.
- Pick Team Leader: Oversees the breakdown and grouping of SNS inventory supplies to be sent to POD sites. Supervises the Pick Team.
- Pick Team Staff: Assure that the supplies are grouped per SNS inventory for POD sites. Assists to organize all medical assets.
- Site Security Unit Leader: Ensures the interior and exterior safety of all team members at the Distribution Site as well as during transfer to the PODs or other dispensing sites.
- Communications/IT Unit Leader: Maintains the integrity of the information infrastructure and safe processing capabilities to assure continued operations of all IT systems. Organizes internal and external communications.



**For questions and/or interest, please contact Judge Torpey:**

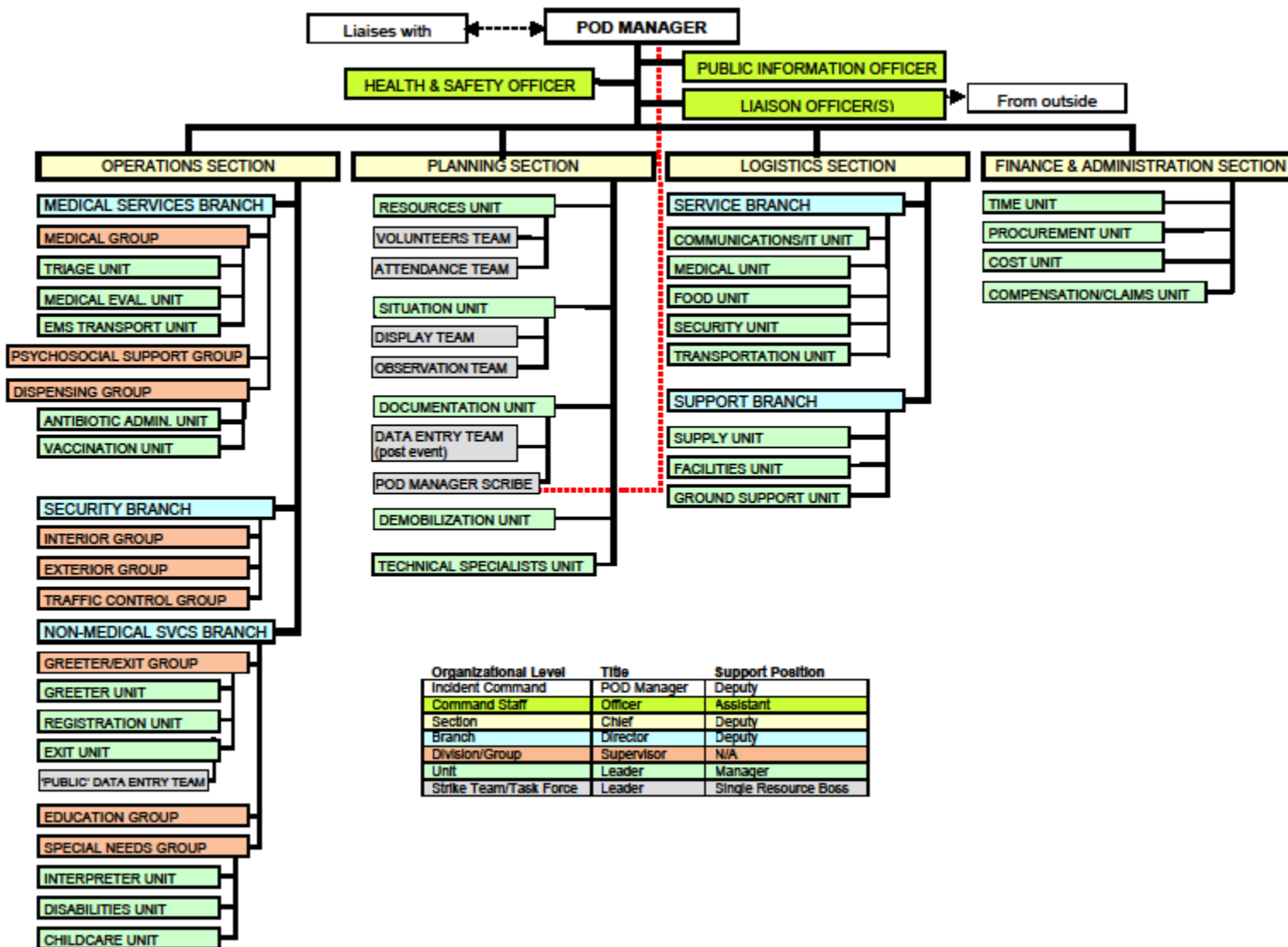
- 860-721-2816 or
- [Judge.torpey@wethersfieldct.com](mailto:Judge.torpey@wethersfieldct.com)

## INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standard, on-scene, all-hazards incident management system already in use by firefighters, hazardous materials teams, rescuers and emergency medical teams.

The ICS has been established by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the **standardized** incident organizational structure for the **management of all incidents**. On the next page is the ICS as it would be organized for a Public Health incident dealing with mass dispensing of medications (for Anthrax) or vaccinations (pan flu, smallpox). The Local Distribution Site ICS would be much more limited in scope but would be part of the overall ICS for any incident.

## MASS DISPENSING COMMAND STRUCTURE



| Organizational Level   | Title       | Support Position     |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Incident Command       | POD Manager | Deputy               |
| Command Staff          | Officer     | Assistant            |
| Section                | Chief       | Deputy               |
| Branch                 | Director    | Deputy               |
| Division/Group         | Supervisor  | N/A                  |
| Unit                   | Leader      | Manager              |
| Strike Team/Task Force | Leader      | Single Resource Boss |

### Incident Command System: A Tool for Responding to Emergencies

- Top priorities - save and protect: ①life ②environment ③property.
- Effective communication makes or breaks a disaster response.
- Best decisions are calm and focused.

**Incident Command**: Leads response; appoints leaders; sets tone/standards for response

**Incident Commander**: In charge of incident. Coordinates overall efforts.

**Safety and Security Officers**: Focuses on the safety/security of site & staff.

**Public Information Officer**: Coordinates messages to media, partners & public.

**Liaison Officer**: Links to and supports external partners & organizations.

**Operations Section**: Carry out the dispensing of medications/vaccines.

**Planning Section**: Gathers information, thinks ahead & keeps ahead of incident needs.

**Logistics Section**: Acquires, stores & distributes resources (facility/supplies/people).

**Finance/Administration Section**: Tracks incident expenses, claims, activities, personnel.



## Call Judee if you have questions

Site offers links to courses based in Connecticut, other states and federal level such as FEMA. When you open the site, click on “Create an Account” and follow the directions. Make sure that you click the health district i.e. Central Ct Health District. **MOST** courses are **FREE** and will provide a certificate. The site creates an automatic Transcript for TRAIN. Connecticut courses – can add others you take, tracks status of current courses in which enrolled, creates certificate, offers option to provide evaluation feedback on courses and has quick links to sites & upcoming events.

### **PEDIATRIC VACCINE ADMINISTRATION:**

The Department of Public Health, through the Planning and Workforce Development Section, is offering training for nurses and physicians in administering vaccines to children. One two-hour session is being offered at the various times and locations listed below. Register on CT.TRAIN. Additional venues will be added over the next several months. Training in pediatric vaccinations is important to assure readiness for another influenza pandemic. Please take advantage of these free offerings. March 31, 2011: Danbury Library, 1:00 – 3:00 PM; May 3, 2011: South Central VNA/New Haven, 10 am - 12PM; May 11, 2011: American Lung Association, East Hartford, 10:00 am–12:00 PM; June 7, 2011: New Milford VNA, 1 pm – 3PM; June 13, 2011: Torrington Health District, 10:00 am- 12:00 noon

### **THE NURSING INITIATIVE PROMOTING IMMUNIZATION TRAINING (NIP-IT)**

This Training was made possible by a cooperative agreement between the **University of Oklahoma College of Nursing**, a National League Center of Excellence in Nursing Education since 2006, and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. This web-based curriculum about immunizations and vaccine preventable diseases is intended to inform and educate nursing students and nurses nationwide. For information go to: <http://www.nip-it.org/>

### **N95 Respirator Train the Trainer Course**

This course is being offered by DPH to increase the capacity of state and local agencies to fit test their personnel in advance and/or during a public health emergency. Four sessions are offered- February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Connecticut Hospital Association, February 28<sup>th</sup> at UConn Torrington Campus, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the New England Disaster Training Center and March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bridgeport EOC. Medical clearance is required prior to attending a session.

### **Yale New Haven Health Center for Excellence: Distance Learning Courses**

Many course available on a variety of subjects.

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness 101**

The *Newly Revised* Public Health Emergency Preparedness 101 course is now **open to all state and local public health professionals including volunteers.**

### **Smallpox Vaccination Training: Part A--Online Training**

This course is online portion of a two part course designed to prepare licensed healthcare professionals, who can administer vaccines, to become Smallpox Vaccinators. This on-line module is a prerequisite to Part B, the live workshop that will be offered within individual MDAs (Mass Dispensing Areas i.e. CCHD = MDA 28) or hospitals. After completing both the online and hands-on sessions you will be able to administer the smallpox vaccine within your Mass Dispensing Area POD or Hospital.

### **American Red Cross Training Opportunities**

The American Red Cross offers more than 50 training programs in health and safety (CPR/AED, child care, babysitter training, lifeguard certification and more), disaster response, and allied health occupations including Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy/EKG programs.