



Issue 53
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Special Edition

Inside this Issue

- 1** NDMS Hospitals Prepare to Respond to War
- 2** UK Hospital Vaccinates Smallpox Response Team Members
- 2** Hospital Develops Security Strategy to Respond to Alerts

UK Hospital Smallpox Vaccination Clinics

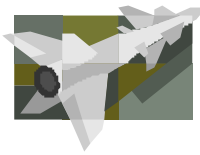
Tuesdays
April 1 and April 8
7-9 a.m.
and
2-4 p.m.

4 North

University of Kentucky Hospital
800 Rose Street
Lexington, KY 40536

University of Kentucky Hospital Safety Bulletin

NDMS Hospitals Prepare to Respond to War



The war in Iraq has begun, and University of Kentucky Hospital is preparing to

respond. As a member of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Hospital recognizes that it may be asked to care for soldiers wounded in the war.

NDMS hospitals, such as UK and several other acute care hospitals in Lexington and Louisville, may be asked to provide support to the military and Veterans Health Administration medical systems in caring for casualties evacuated back to the U.S. from overseas.

UK Hospital has been a part of the National Disaster Medical System for many years. Whenever there is a war or a mass casualty event, the regional NDMS coordinator puts local hospitals on alert and requests routine updates on bed availability for daily planning purposes. This process has begun.

If casualties from the current conflict are transported to Lexington for care, the regional coordinating center at the VA Medical Center at Cooper Drive will deploy specially trained medical teams to triage patients as they arrive and to coordinate transportation to UK and other local NDMS hospitals.

Federal authorities have indicated that local hospitals will be notified 12 to 72 hours before casualties arrive.

If UK Hospital is notified that military casualties are being transported to Lexington, the Hospital will activate specific sections of the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) to coordinate emergency operations.

The command center will notify employees if the hospital is to receive casualties. Hospital employees may be asked to serve in designated emergency response roles during the activation.

NDMS is a public-private sector partnership, established by presidential directive in 1982. It is designed to supplement state and local resources during a disaster and to provide backup medical support during a war.

As a participating hospital, UK voluntarily commits resources to the National Disaster Medical System and agrees to treat NDMS patients should the need arise. The Hospital regularly participates in NDMS exercises to help ensure its readiness.

The National Disaster Medical System is activated many times annually in response to state and federal emergencies. The system was on standby for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, and was activated in 2001 in response to the anthrax incidents, the crash of flight 587, the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Tropical Storm Allison, and the Presidential Inauguration.

This newsletter is distributed to STCs and other Hospital leaders to help them fulfill their safety responsibilities.



UK Hospital Vaccinates Smallpox Response Teams

Hospital seeks employee volunteers for smallpox vaccination.

In December 2002, President Bush unveiled the nation's smallpox response plan. Phase 1 of the plan called for hospitals across the nation to organize and vaccinate smallpox response teams who would care for patients in the event of an outbreak due to bioterrorism.

This month, UK Hospital began vaccinating employee volunteers. In a clinic held on March 25, the Hospital vaccinated 17 employees. Additional clinics are scheduled for April 1 and April 8, 7-9 a.m. and 2-4 p.m., on 4 North. To date, sixty-two employees and faculty have registered for vaccination.

These employees will serve vital emergency response roles if there is a smallpox outbreak. Many of them will care for smallpox patients or provide essential support services. Others will register, screen, and vaccinate additional healthcare workers.

The Hospital is seeking additional volunteers. Top priority will be given to:

- Emergency department and other faculty and staff who may be exposed before an outbreak is identified
- Physicians, nurses, and nursing care techs who will provide bedside care
- Diagnostic radiology techs and respiratory therapists
- Clinical Lab techs
- Environmental Services workers
- Security personnel

If employees in these or other categories are interested in receiving the vaccine and serving on a smallpox response team, they should contact Tomi Ross, Hospital Safety Officer, at { [HYPERLINK mailto:tross@uky.edu](mailto:tross@uky.edu) }.

All employees who volunteer will be given detailed information about the risks associated with the vaccine and will be screened for contraindications to vaccination. Employees who are vaccinated will be given site care instructions, bandages and other supplies, and a 24-hour emergency contact number.

All acute care hospitals in Lexington are participating in this vaccination program. Volunteers from other hospitals are being vaccinated by the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department at the Red Mile.

When Phase 1 of the smallpox vaccination program is complete, the city will begin Phase 2, which involves vaccination of first responders, such as fire, police, and emergency management personnel. As more vaccine is made available, UK Hospital hopes to be able to offer vaccinations to more health care workers.

Hospital Develops Security Strategy for Responding to Alerts

UK Hospital has developed a strategy to enhance security measures based on national, state, or local alert status.

Intelligence officers believe that hospitals could be primary or secondary targets for terrorist activity. In December 2002, the FBI released a statement that hospitals in four major cities were identified as terrorist targets.

UK Hospital's security strategy is based on five alert categories defined by the federal government. Under this system:

Green=Low (Little or no known threat)
Blue=Guarded (General Risk of Attack)
Yellow=Elevated (Significant Risk of Attack)
Orange=High (Terrorists are prepared to attack; specific targets have been identified)
Red=Severe (Terrorist attack is imminent)
The nation is currently on Orange alert.

The Hospital's security strategy relies on certain security measures that are in place at all times. The Hospital has installed magnetic locks to restrict public access to the building. Security cameras are in place in key areas around the campus. Security personnel monitor these cameras 24-hours-a-day and patrol areas throughout the hospital.

During times of elevated, high, or severe alert, the Hospital implements additional security measures, designed to mitigate the risks associated with particular threats.

Among other things, UK Hospital currently is restricting traffic and parking on the front loop. Employees who are given rides to work should arranged to be dropped off and picked up at the bus stop or in front of the mural.

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