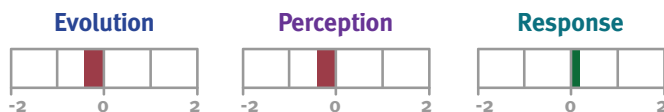


Tuesday, June 16th, 2009

AUSTRALIA:

In the past two weeks, Australia's confirmed cases of H1N1 have more than tripled. On June 3, the official count was at 501 confirmed cases, and as of June 15 the count was 1,823 confirmed cases — mostly in the state of Victoria, which has confirmed 66.37% of the country's total.¹ So far only 7 people in Ausatralia have been hospitalized, with 4 of those in Victoria.

Australia's Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, alerted the public that the government is close to raising its alert level to allow authorities the power to restrict travel, cancel public events and dismiss schools.² Medical facilities have been somewhat overwhelmed with people seeking treatment.³



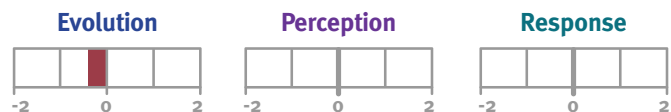
ANOTHER CANADIAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY TAKING A HIT

Over the weekend another indigenous community in Canada confirmed an outbreak of the H1N1 virus. Along with First Nation communities in Manitoba and Inuit Communities in Nunavut, the Sandy Lake First Nation community of Northwestern Ontario confirmed 10 cases of H1N1 over the weekend. There were 120 people, on Saturday alone, who were ill with H1N1 symptoms.⁴ After confirming that 10 people had the H1N1 virus, they have stopped testing for it, and are just treating everyone with symptoms as though they have it. So far 10 people have

become so ill that they have been flown out of the community. It is reported though that over half of these people have recovered and no cases seem to be life threatening. Of the 120 people known to have fallen ill with flu like symptoms, 43 were children.⁵

This situation warrants continued monitoring, along with the earlier outbreaks in Manitoba and Nunavut. The Sandy Lake community is not far from the St. Theresa Point First Nation community in Manitoba, which also saw a significant outbreak last week.

Today, two more Manitobans confirmed to have the H1N1 virus died. One was a 40 year old man, in previously good health, and the second was a 40 year old woman with other medical conditions. The number of cases for the region is now reported to have reached 226 cases, up 74 from yesterday's case reporting numbers.⁶



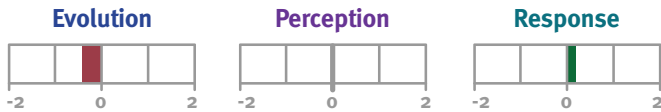
ARGENTINA:

Argentina reported its first death related to H1N1 — a 3 month old child in Buenos Aires. The Health Minister, Graciela Ocana, also confirmed that 4 people confirmed with H1N1 are in intensive care units, and they are, “between 20 and 50 years old.”⁷ One other death was confirmed in a 28 year old man. Tests have revealed that 1,352 cases of suspected H1N1 were in fact not H1N1. The results of 940 more tests are still pending. Over 50 schools

This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the “Thinking Ahead” service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on their significance with respect to three criteria: the significance of the news item for (1) the evolution of the physical disease event; (2) its effects on perceptions of threat (i.e., fear); and (3) examples of reaction or response to (1) and (2) above. To the extent possible, bio-era seeks to integrate an understanding of the particular news items identified as leading indicators or signposts within a broader bio-era scenario-based decision-support framework. To learn more about the service, the scenarios framework, or to enroll, please visit www.bio-era.net.

have now been temporarily closed, and today Argentina's crisis committee will meet to review the measures it has taken to battle the H1N1 pandemic to this point.⁸

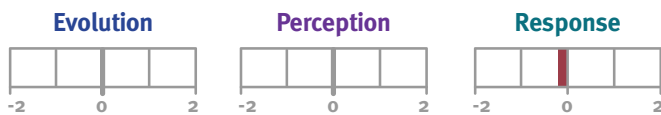
The level of fear around Buenos Aires that led to people swamping medical facilities early last week has diminished.



THAILAND: KEEPING QUIET

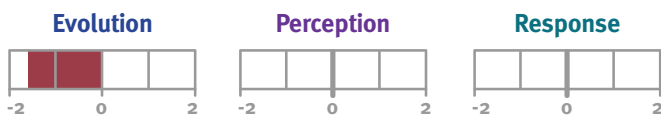
It has been reported from Bangkok that the Thai Health Ministry is sending letters to senior health officials around the country, telling them to refrain on releasing any H1N1 information to the media and public. They want all information about case numbers and patient details to go through the health ministry.⁹ As a result, the Prime Minister was forced to issue a statement today, assuring people that they have not manipulated or hidden any numbers related to case outbreaks. He stated that the Public Health Ministry will continue to report and keep the public up to date with the spread of H1N1. As of today Thailand has had 310 confirmed cases, and no deaths.¹⁰

While Thailand's government responded quickly to rumors and reports they were trying to hide or suppress information, this is probably a bellwether of what is likely to be a growing political problem.



H1N1 VIRUS MUTATION IN BRAZIL

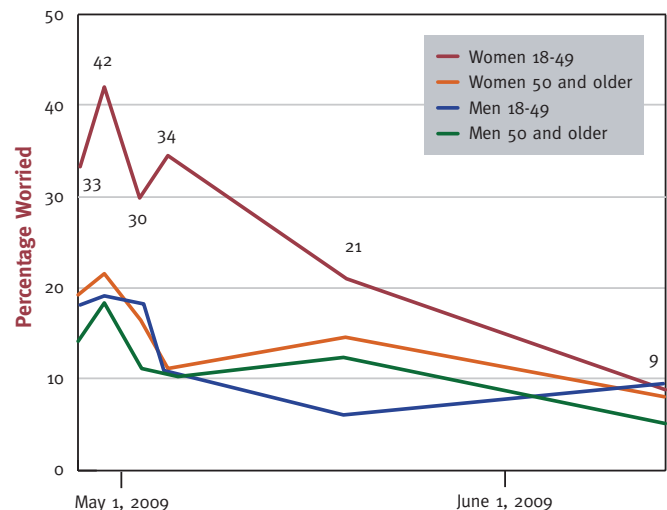
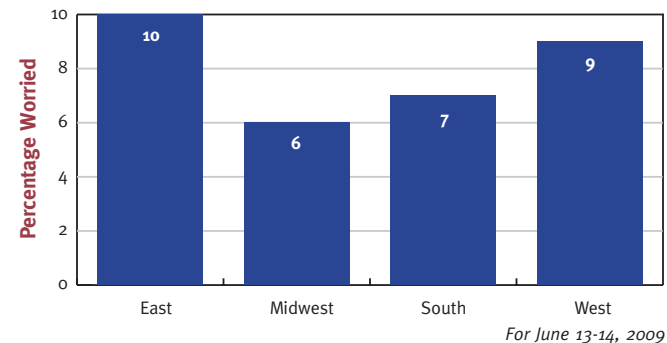
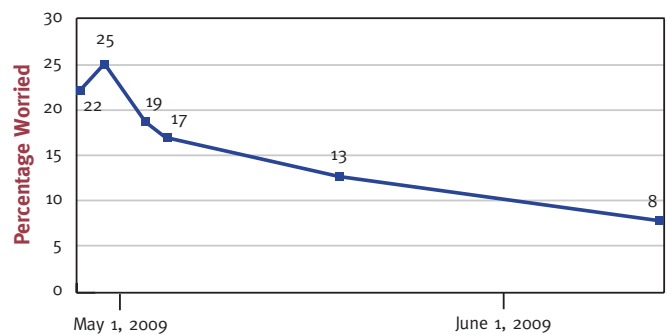
Recent reports out of Brazil claim that a strain of the H1N1 virus circulating there has undergone significant change. In samples taken from a San Paolo patient, scientists discovered a virus with significantly different hemagglutinin protein compared to an H1N1 reference sample from California.¹¹



LEVEL OF FEAR IN US DECLINING

While fear in many countries around the globe may be escalating as the reported number of H1N1 cases continue to grow, at least one poll has found that people's fear in the US of catching the virus is diminishing. A Gallup Poll conducted June 13-14 after the WHO officially

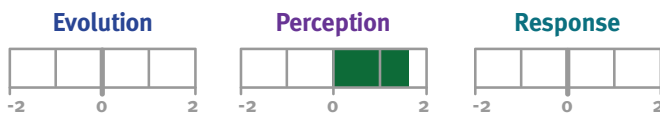
Did you, personally, worry yesterday about getting swine flu, or not?



Source: Gallup Poll Daily tracking

announced H1N1 a global pandemic, shows that only 8% of Americans surveyed had fear of contracting H1N1. This is down 13% from a poll in the middle of May, and down from the high of 25% right after the outbreaks started. (More charts on previous page).¹²

This was a phone survey of 998 Americans, 18 years or older, so only so much can be based off the poll. Still, it is a good indicator that the fear level in the US is low, and not near the high levels causing problems in places such as Buenos Aires, Argentina.



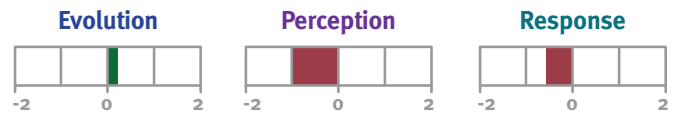
CANADA'S HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE STARTING TO HURT

Today Manitoba's confirmed number of H1N1 cases rose by 74 to 226, and the pressure from the virus is mounting on Manitoban hospitals, especially in Winnipeg. St. Boniface and Victoria hospitals, two of the largest in Winnipeg, are struggling to keep enough nurses on duty, and keep intensive care units open to deal with the people flooding in with flu symptoms. The current situation has caused the union to scale back, and put on hold, nurse vacations and also to retrain many nurses so they can assist with the mounting number of people in the intensive care units.¹³

St. Boniface hospital is where most of the Manitoban flu cases are being treated. Nurses there are admitting the strain it is putting on them and the hospital. All the nurses' resources are already being stretched thinly, as the number of cases and people developing symptoms continue to grow. It is to the point where the Winnipeg health region may also have to look into moving patient to medical facilities in other regions.¹⁴

Manitoba's New Democrat, Nikki Ashton, has also been touring affected indigenous reserves this week, in areas such as Sandy Lake and St. Theresa Point. She had some very harsh

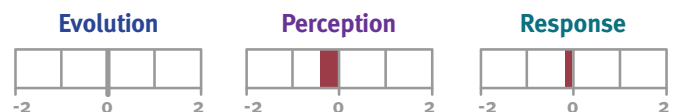
words criticizing the province's preparations to deal with the pandemic and assist the First Nations communities. "I've seen the [health guidelines] binder that they sent to leadership in these communities and it's a binder that has all these great ideas, but there's no resources to back it up. There's no human resources that have been offered," she said, also saying the the amount of support being sent was shameful. She also stated that many people in these communities are communicating their fear, not just with the situation of current outbreaks, but about when the flu season rolls back around in the fall and another, greater outbreak is possible. "Over and over again, what people are telling me is, 'We know it's gonna come back worse in the fall, we're scared.'"¹⁵

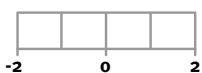


INDIA CALLING FOR US SCREENING

As the number of confirmed H1N1 cases rose to 30 people in India today, the Minister of State for Health in India has called for the US to start screening its outgoing passengers. "The US is the main source (of swine flu) as far as India is concerned," he stated also adding, "In Mexico, when people leave the airport, they are properly monitored and screened. Similarly, Americans should also provide some kind of screening at the point of departure."¹⁶

Most of India's cases have been linked to people traveling from the US, particularly school groups. This has been the case for many other countries confirming cases of H1N1 as well. It will be interesting to watch and see if other countries jump behind India in calling for the US to start screening its outgoing passengers, or even take it a step farther and start imposing travel restrictions. Even though the WHO has not recommended any travel restrictions, it is evident that fear of the virus coming from travelers, particularly in North America, is becoming very high.





Bio-era's judgement regarding the extent to which a development is positive or negative for: (1) the physical evolution of the disease, (2) perceptions of the disease, and (3) future disease event impacts.

	-2	0	2
Physical Evolution How significant is the development with respect to the evolution, transmissability, and virulence of the disease?	Indicates or portends higher transmission, transmissability, and/or virulence of the disease	No Net Change	Indicates or portends lower transmission, transmissability, and/or virulence of the disease
Perception How significant is the development with respect to perceptions of threat (i.e., fears of the disease)?	Indicates or promotes heightened fear of the disease	No Net Effect	Indicates or promotes lower fear of the disease
Response/Reaction To what degree does the response help or hinder the effort to mitigate the impacts the disease?	Expected to exacerbate disease impacts	No Net Impact	Expected to mitigate disease impacts

- 1 CIDRAP June 15 Update See:: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/>
- 2 *Voice of America*. "Argentina Reports First Swine Flu Death. June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-16-voa15.cfm>
- 3 Julia Medew and Conrad Walters — SMH. "One in three Victorians May Have Flu." June 15, 2009. See: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/australia/2501142/One-in-three-Victorians-may-have-flu>
- 4 CBC News. "Swine Flu Hits First Nations Community in Northern Ontario." June 14, 2009. See: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/ottawa/story/2009/06/14/firstnations-swineflu.html>
- 5 *Vancouver Sun*. "Isolated Ont. Reserve Braces for More Swine Flu Cases." June 15, 2009. See: <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/Health/Swine+confirmed+isolated+First+Nation/1697300/story.html>
- 6 Province of Manitoba. "Bulletin #23." June 16, 2009. See: <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=6094>
- 7 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Second H1N1 Death in Argentina." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/3994>
- 8 *Latin American Herald Tribune*. "Argentina Reports First Death From Swine Flu." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=337322&CategoryId=14093>
- 9 *Bangkok Post*. "Officials Muzzled on H1N1." June 15, 2009. See: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/18526/officials-muzzled-on-h1n1>
- 10 *MCOT English News*. "PM denies hiding numbers..." June 16, 2009. See: <http://enews.mcot.net/view.php?id=10382>
- 11 AFP. "Brazil Finds New Strain of H1N1." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jOVEa-TOAEQ3t1NAik9vzooON1FA>
- 12 Gallup. "Despite 'Pandemic' Swine Flu Worry Dwindles." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/120863/Despite-Pandemic-Swine-Flu-Worry-Dwindles.aspx>
- 13 CBC News. "Swine Flu Stresses Nursing Staffs at Winnipeg Hospitals." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2009/06/16/mb-swine-flu-nurses-winnipeg.html>
- 14 CBC News. "Swine Flu Stresses Nursing Staffs at Winnipeg Hospitals." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2009/06/16/mb-swine-flu-nurses-winnipeg.html>
- 15 CBC News. "Swine Flu Stresses Nursing Staffs at Winnipeg Hospitals." June 16, 2009. See: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2009/06/16/mb-swine-flu-nurses-winnipeg.html>
- 16 *Gulf Times*. "US Urged to Screen Passengers." June 16, 2009. See: http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=297519&version=1&template_id=40&parent_id=22