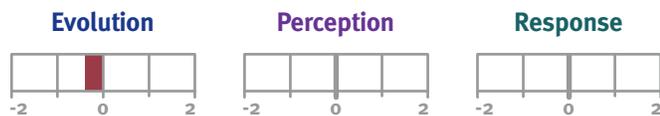


Thursday, June 18, 2009

## FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN H1N1 CASE

The first H1N1 case was confirmed in Johannesburg, South Africa this morning. A twelve year old boy, who returned from a trip to the US on Sunday, was identified as the patient. He was admitted to the hospital Monday and has since been released to recover in isolation at home.<sup>1</sup> The Department stated that having a confirmed case does not change their strategy, and the country's government agencies are meeting weekly to monitor preparedness for the virus.<sup>2</sup>

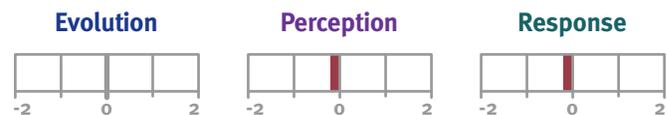
This is the first confirmed case in the Sub-Sahara region of Africa. The only other countries in Africa with confirmed cases of the virus are Egypt and Morocco. Morocco now has 8 confirmed cases of H1N1, all in people coming from North America (7 from Canada, 1 from the United States).<sup>3</sup>



## CARIBBEAN NATIONS CONTINUE TO TURN BACK CRUISE SHIPS

A cruise ship carrying 3 confirmed and 11 suspected cases of H1N1 is finally being allowed to port in Aruba.<sup>4</sup> The Spanish ship with 1,200 people on board had been turned away from the Caribbean islands of Grenada and Barbados earlier this week due to the reports of confirmed cases and other passengers exhibiting flu like symptoms onboard. Yesterday, the ship ported in Venezuela's Isla

Margarita, where Venezuelan health officials were reported to have quarantined the ship for 10 days, but in fact, 342 Venezuelan passengers were unloaded at Isla Margarita this morning, and the ship is now reported to be heading to Aruba to disembark the remaining passengers.<sup>5</sup> Two other Caribbean islands, St. Lucia and Antigua, have also turned away cruise ships this month because of H1N1 fears.<sup>6</sup>



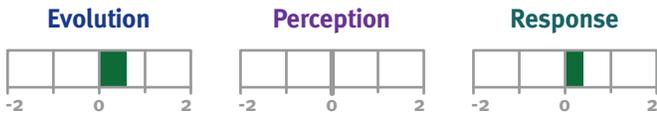
## CDC DISPUTES BRAZILIAN REPORTS OF NEW H1N1 STRAIN

CDC officials are disputing Brazilian scientists' reports that a substantially different strain of the H1N1 virus has been circulating in Brazil. "Our scientists have no knowledge of a new strain of novel A H1N1 influenza...It's the same strain, it's not a new strain," stated a CDC spokesman. On Tuesday, Brazilian scientists from Sao Paulo had reported sampling a strain of H1N1 from a person returning ill from Mexico as having significant differences in the "nucleotide and amino acid sequences" that code for the hemagglutinin protein.

Other experts, including a virologist from Columbia University are also disputing the Brazilian report stating, "The few amino acid differences with other 2009 H1N1 isolates are in areas that would not be expected to influence antigenicity or host range."<sup>7</sup> As of today, the CDC is the only public health organization that has officially

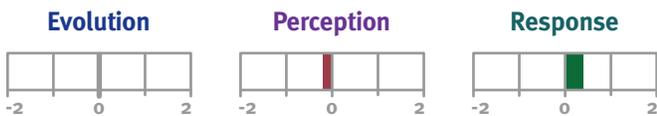
This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the "Thinking Ahead" service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on 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](http://www.bio-era.net).

rejected the conclusion that the sampled virus represents a new strain.



### MALAYSIA ENFORCING STRICTER TRAVEL MEASURES

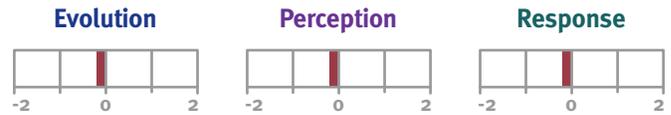
Today the Malaysian Ministry announced it will be enacting new measures to restrict the spread of the H1N1 virus. Incoming international flights will now give all passengers face masks and make health declaration forms mandatory, with criminal penalties of jail time and fines for not complying. The Ministry also called on the WHO to take action against countries like Australia and the Philippines who they believe are not enacting strict enough exit screening measures. Both countries have reported a rapid rise in confirmed cases. No social distancing measures are planned to be implemented yet, but they will continue to monitor the local situation.<sup>8</sup>



### YEMEN CONFIRMS MORE H1N1 CASES; DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

Yesterday Yemen officials confirmed five more cases of the H1N1 virus in students returning from the US, and declared a nationwide state of emergency. It reported its first confirmed case Tuesday, in a 16 year old student who recently returned from the US. Yemen seems to be focusing on surveillance and screening at points of entry to the country. A Health Ministry Director characterized the country's response by saying, "Our response is more efficient and quicker...When patients arrive at the airport they are not met first with the immigration officials, but by health staff. They measure their temperature to determine whether they have a fever, and check for any other symptoms."<sup>9</sup>

Countries confirming cases of the virus in students returning from the US appears to be a worldwide trend in the spread of the virus.

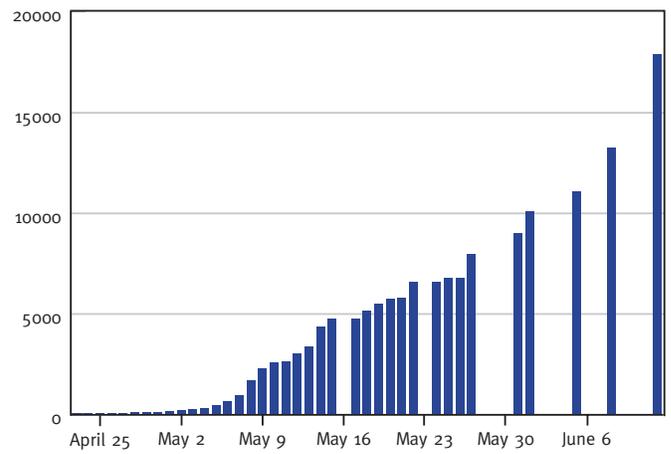


### US H1N1 UPDATE

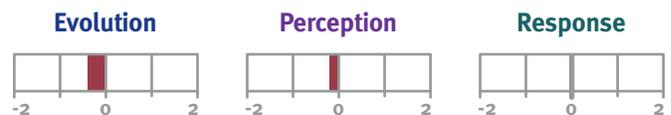
Utah state officials are warning that H1N1 poses a "serious" risk as they confirmed two more H1N1 related deaths, raising the state's total to 8 deaths due to the virus. Both victims were between the ages of 25-50, the same age demographic as 5 other victims. As of June 17<sup>th</sup>, at least 129 people have been hospitalized in Utah with flu like symptoms. A state epidemiologist has characterized Utah as having, "one of, if not the most, active outbreaks in the country."<sup>10</sup>

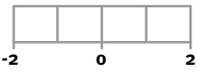
Outbreaks of the virus have also continued in the Northeast. Massachusetts confirmed its first H1N1 related death on Monday, while New York reported 3 more deaths on Tuesday to bring their total to 23. The CDC reported a cumulative total of 45 H1N1 related US deaths in their latest report issued on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Cumulative US Confirmed H1N1 Cases



Sources: WHO and CDC





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
<b>Physical Evolution</b> 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
<b>Perception</b> 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
<b>Response/Reaction</b> 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 Reuters. "South Africa Confirms First Case of H1N1 flu." June 18, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-SwineFlu/idUSTRE55H2J520090618>
- 2 Reuters. June 18, 2009. "First 'Swine' Flu Case Confirmed." See: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/c38d0282154c0d84fa7cc7d09a9e75fa.htm>
- 3 Maghreb Arabe Presse. "Eight Cases of A/H1N1 Confirmed in Morocco." June 18, 2009. See: [http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/box2/eight\\_cases\\_of\\_a\\_h1n/view](http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/box2/eight_cases_of_a_h1n/view)
- 4 Maritime Global Net. "Swine Flu Cruise Ship Headed for Aruba." June 18, 2009. See: <http://www.mgn.com/news/dailystorydetails.cfm?storyid=10008>
- 5 Maritime Global Net. "Swine Flu Cruise Ship Headed for Aruba." June 18, 2009. See: <http://www.mgn.com/news/dailystorydetails.cfm?storyid=10008>
- 6 USA Today. "Another Caribbean Island Turns Away Cruise Ship Over Swine Flu Fears." June 18, 2009. See: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/cruises/item.aspx?type=blog&ak=68237843.blog>
- 7 CIDRAP. "CDC Rejects Report of Mutant H1N1 Strain in Brazil." June 17, 2009. See: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/jun1709flustrain.html>
- 8 Channel New Asia. "Malaysia Stepping Up Measures to Contain Spread of H1N1 Flu." June 18, 2009. See: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/southeastasia/view/436883/1/.html>
- 9 Yemen Times. "Yemen Reports Five Swine Flu Cases." June 18, 2009. See: <http://yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=1269&p=front&a=2>
- 10 The Salt Lake Tribune. "Utah health officials warn swine flu risk serious; H1N1 death toll hits 8." June 18, 2009. See: [http://www.sltrib.com/nationworld/ci\\_12607907](http://www.sltrib.com/nationworld/ci_12607907)