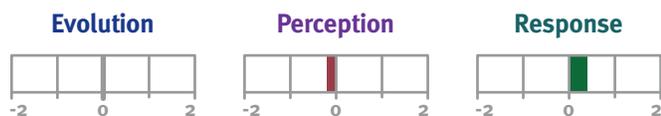


Friday, June 19, 2009

COMPANIES BEGINNING TO ENFORCE STRICTER SAFETY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NOVEL H1N1 VIRUS

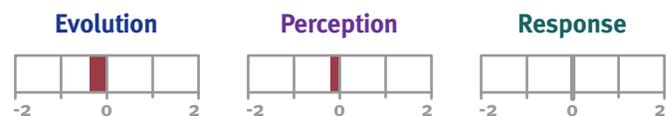
Companies in Singapore are enacting stricter safety measures to prevent the spread of novel H1N1 virus through employees. More companies are requesting (and in some cases requiring) employees returning from H1N1 affected countries to stay at home for 7 days before returning to work — even if they have no symptoms, or at least to regularly check their temperature for 7 days after travel abroad. Singapore’s Health Ministry guidelines require confirmed cases to be quarantined in the hospital.¹

Measures are also being enacted by Asian companies to keep workers from traveling. NTT DoCoMo, a Japanese Telco giant, confirmed it kept employees from attending Asia’s largest technology trade show this week so there would be no risk of contracting the novel H1N1 virus while flying.² On June 10th a worldwide survey of 400 mid and large size companies was released by Mercer LLC that showed 41% of companies do not have HR plans in place to deal with H1N1 related health issues.³



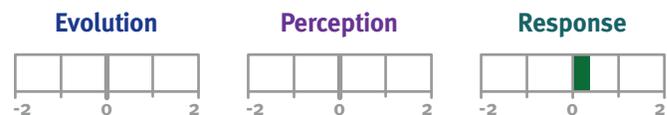
SECOND H1N1 DEATH OUTSIDE OF THE AMERICAS CONFIRMED

Australian health officials have confirmed their first novel H1N1 related death in a 26 year old male. This is only the second confirmed death outside of the Americas. A 38 year old woman in Scotland confirmed to have the virus died earlier this week. Doctors have stressed in both cases that the victims had underlying health issues that were major contributors.⁴ It should be noted that the Australian man was from a remote aboriginal community.⁵ Concern has mounted in Canada over the last two weeks regarding the higher severity of H1N1 illness within indigenous communities. As of today, the WHO has confirmed 180 deaths worldwide, of which 157 were within the US and Mexico.⁶



PHILIPPINES ADVISING PUBLIC TO WEAR SAFETY MASKS

Today the Philippines Department of Science and Technology issued an advisory for students and workers to start wearing safety masks when they are in public places. The advisory comes as the region gets ready to enter its monsoon season and scientists feel weather conditions may promote the spread of the virus.⁷ The Philippines has confirmed 311 cases of novel H1N1 influenza and no deaths.⁸

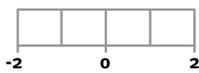
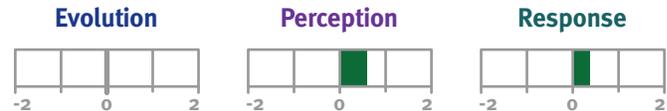


This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the “Thinking Ahead” service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on 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.

JAPAN RELAXES MEASURES AGAINST NOVEL H1N1

Today the Japanese government announced it has revised its guidelines on dealing with the H1N1 virus. All medical institutions may now see suspected flu patients, and people exhibiting mild symptoms may recover at their homes. Before, flu patients could only be seen by institutions with fever clinics and all people exhibiting

flu symptoms were required to be hospitalized in areas with low case numbers. The government will now also focus on detecting group cases and stop counting individual cases.⁹ These relaxed prevention and surveillance measures come even as the number of confirmed cases has risen in Japan to 690.¹⁰



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, transmissibility, and virulence of the disease?	Indicates or portends higher transmission, transmissibility, and/or virulence of the disease	No Net Change	Indicates or portends lower transmission, transmissibility, 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 Channel Asia News. "Companies urged to take extra steps to reduce H1N1 spread." June 19, 2009. See: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/437150/1/.html>
- 2 *The Straits Times*. "Fewer visitors at tech show." June 19, 2009. See: http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_392660.html
- 3 Mercer. "Many Employers Still Unprepared For Managing HR Issues Related to H1N1." June 10, 2009. See: <http://www.mercer.com/summary.htm?idContent=1349530>
- 4 *The Australian*. "Nation Records First Swine Flu Death." June 19, 2009. See: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25662686-601,00.html>
- 5 Reuters. "Australian Man with H1N1 dies." June 19, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/asiaCrisis/idUSSP460155>
- 6 WHO. "Update 51". June 19, 2009. See: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_19/en/index.html
- 7 *Manila Bulletin*. "Mask Must For Protection." June 19, 2009. See: <http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/207456/mask-must-protection>
- 8 WHO. "Update 51". June 19, 2009. See: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_19/en/index.html
- 9 *China View*. "Japan Relaxes Over A/H1N1 Flu Despite Rising Infections." June 19, 2009. See: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/20/content_11570390.htm
- 10 WHO. "Update 51". June 19, 2009. See: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_19/en/index.html