

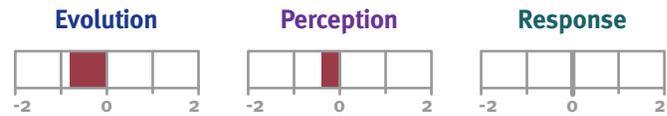
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

H1N1 TREND UPDATE

The trend of H1N1 cases arising outside of the U.S. that can be ascribed to travelers coming from the U.S. continued today as Cambodia, Iraq, and Indonesia all confirmed their first cases of the H1N1 virus. An American student visiting Cambodia as part of a school group was confirmed to be carrying the virus after exhibiting symptoms upon her arrival on Friday.¹ Iraq confirmed its first cases in six players on the women's national basketball team who recently returned from Chicago. A seventh player was confirmed to be carrying the virus as the team passed through Jordan and was kept there to recover.² Finally, Bulgaria, which has 5 confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, confirmed today two new cases in a child and grandparent who recently returned from the U.S.³

Other countries are also seeing foreign cases arise that can be ascribed to travelers arriving from their country. Today, Indonesia confirmed its first H1N1 cases in a pilot returning from a trip to Australia and Hong Kong, and in a British woman traveling from Australia. The Health Minister has already voiced concern about the H1N1 virus combining with the H5N1 virus in Indonesia and these cases have triggered concerns about more Australian tourists importing the H1N1 virus.⁴ They have already implemented special health measures to monitor passengers entering the country, but the Health Minister said that she is still "very worried" about people bringing in the virus from Australia.⁵ Serbia also confirmed its first case of the H1N1 virus in a 29 year-old man who recently returned

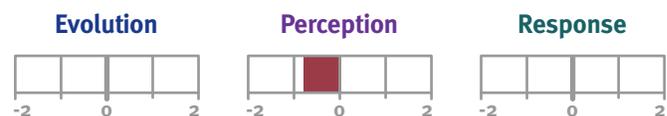
from Argentina.⁶ Argentina has seen a surge in the number of confirmed H1N1 cases over the past two weeks.



H1N1 PERCEPTIONS ALTERING US AND UK TRAVEL PLANS

A survey of Qatar citizens revealed that 90% of the participants have changed their holiday and summer travel plans because of the H1N1 pandemic. Normally the U.S. and U.K. are popular destinations during Qatari holidays, but the majority of participants said they would now stay within Qatar or other Gulf nations for the holidays. One participant said, "Traveling to the U.S. this year will be like a suicide attempt," while another participant stated, "It is natural that nobody would travel to the U.S. or Europe now... I cannot take a risk and go to those countries which have been badly hit by the H1N1 virus."⁷

This was a very small survey, involving only 20 participants, so only so much can be concluded from its findings. Still, it is a small indicator of perceptions and attitudes developing toward the U.S. in relation to the H1N1 pandemic.

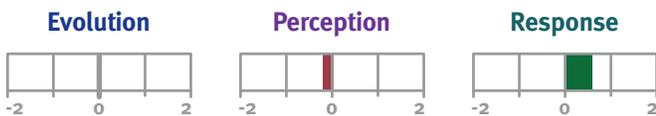


This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the "Thinking Ahead" service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on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

BRAZIL AND MALAYSIA ENACTING NEW TRAVEL CONTROLS

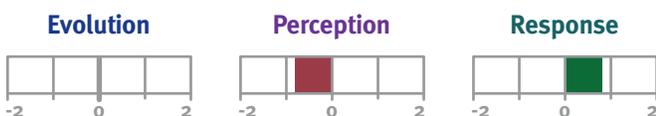
Yesterday Brazil’s Health Ministry announced that it will start enforcing new control measures on incoming flights from Argentina in an effort to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus. The new measures include requiring passengers to fill out special health forms and requiring the airline to provide a list of passengers and their contact information. Customs authorities may also now isolate passengers showing any flu-like symptoms. The Ministry also recommended that Brazilians refrain from traveling to Argentina and Chile because these countries have seen the highest outbreak of cases in South America.⁸

Malaysia is asking students and travelers returning from the U.S., U.K., Australia, and the Philippines to impose seven day self quarantines. The country has reported the majority of its H1N1 cases have involved people returning from these countries.⁹



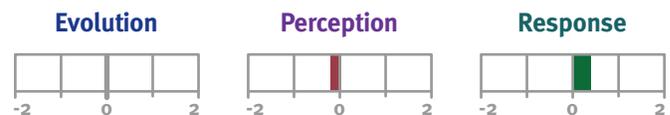
ARGENTINA MAKES MORE ROOM FOR H1N1 PATIENTS

Yesterday, Argentina’s Health Minister confirmed that the Malvinas Argentinas Hospital will be evacuated in order to exclusively treat patients.¹⁰ The hospital will reserve its capacity to treat up to 100 people for H1N1 patients in critical condition. The announcement came after health officials also confirmed that in order to free up medical facilities in the province of Buenos Aires, hospitals will be postponing all non-urgent surgeries for an unspecified period of time. Argentina’s Health Minister said that nearly 20% of the province’s population is seeking medical treatment for flu-like symptoms and that hospitals are ‘overwhelmed’ by these conditions.¹¹



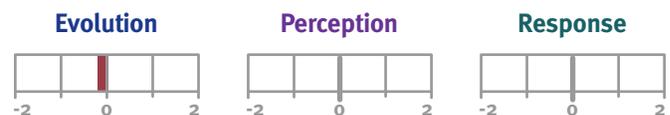
CARIBBEAN NATIONS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPREAD OF H1N1

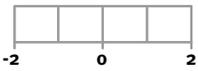
Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have called an emergency meeting of Chief Medical Officers as concern continues to grow over the spread of the H1N1 virus throughout the Caribbean. They hope to create new protocols for the region, particularly dealing with the movement of people related to tourism. This comes following recent issues with a cruise ship being turned away from three Caribbean countries because passengers and crew were exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Eventually, the ship was allowed to port in Aruba to disembark passengers. “We want to ensure that we in no way end up with varying strategies that may be to the disadvantage of some countries, hence we are having a joint approach on this very important issue,” stated a CARICOM official.¹² Last week the inaugural Caribbean Games were cancelled due to concern over the spread of H1N1.¹³



TWO MORE AFRICAN COUNTRIES CONFIRM H1N1 CASES

Today, the WHO confirmed that two more Sub-Sahara African countries, Cape Verde and the Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), have confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus. Cape Verde has confirmed three cases of the virus while the Ivory Coast confirmed two.¹⁴ All five cases are confirmed to have been imported from outside Africa. Algeria also reported its first case of the virus, in a patient that was in close contact with an imported case.¹⁵





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 Reuters. "Cambodia Confirms First Case of New Flu." June 24, 2009. See: http://www.reuters.com/article/internal_ReutersNewsRoom_ExclusivesAndWins_MOLT/idUSTRE55N2HV20090624
- 2 Reuters. "Iraq Confirms First Cases of H1N1 Flu Virus." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-SwineFlu/idUSTRE55N3EW20090624>
- 3 *Focus News Agency*. "Bulgaria Reports Two New A/H1N1 Flu Cases." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n185322>
- 4 Reuters. "Cambodia Confirms First Case of New Flu." June 24, 2009. See: http://www.reuters.com/article/internal_ReutersNewsRoom_ExclusivesAndWins_MOLT/idUSTRE55N2HV20090624
- 5 *Asia One News*. "Indonesia Concerned Australians Bringing H1N1 to Bali." June 24, 2009. See: <http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20090624-150676.html>
- 6 *Earth Times*. "Serbia Reports First Case of Swine Flu." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/274651,serbia-reports-first-case-of-swine-flu.html>
- 7 *Business Intelligence – Mid East*. "Flu virus forces Gulf residents to rule out holiday travel to Europe, US." June 23, 2009. See: <http://www.bi-me.com/main.php?id=38255&t=1&c=33&cg=4&mset=>
- 8 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Brazil Tightens Controls on Flights from Argentina." June 23, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/4668>
- 9 *The Star*. "US, UK, Australia, P'pines Returnees Must Stay Home for 7 Days." June 23, 2009. See: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/6/23/nation/20090623142613&sec=nation>
- 10 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Buenos Aires Gov't Confirms Evacuation..." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/4674>
- 11 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Influenza A Claims 18th Victim..." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/4742>
- 12 CARICOM. "Caribbean Protocol to Tackle Swine Flue Coming." June 23, 2009. See: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/SNAA-7TA5LH?OpenDocument&emid=EP-2009-000084-MEX>
- 13 AP. "Caribbean Games Canceled Over Swine Flu Fears." June 19, 2009. See: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hWec5LU_vFEOjNwvm3qtLIFOKODwD98TTVQ80
- 14 WHO. "Influenza A(H1N1)- Update 53" June 24, 2009. See: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_24/en/index.html
- 15 WHO/AFRO. See: <http://www.afro.who.int/press/2009/pr20090624.html>