

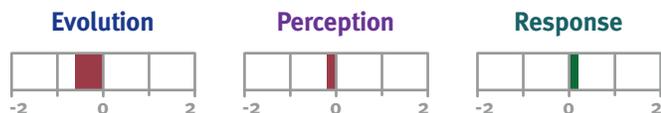
Friday, June 26, 2009

H1N1 TREND UPDATE

The trend of countries reporting cases of the H1N1 virus imported from abroad continued the last three days. Today, Slovakia confirmed its eighth case of the H1N1 virus and all eight cases have been confirmed in people who recently returned from the U.S.¹ Lithuania confirmed its first case of the virus in a sailor that recently came from India.² Indonesia has confirmed three more cases of the virus in tourists on the island of Bali, bringing the country's total to five cases. In response, authorities in Bali are now requiring all passengers coming from abroad to undergo blood checks at the airport.³

Thursday, the small country of Laos confirmed its first cases of the H1N1 virus in an American boy, Australian man, and another traveler whose nationality was unknown. Cambodia confirmed three more cases of the virus in American students after reporting its first case on Wednesday in an American student from the same group.⁴

Wednesday afternoon, Bangladesh confirmed six new cases of H1N1, bringing its total number of cases to seven. All seven cases had recently returned from the U.S.⁵ Slovenia confirmed its second case of the virus in a woman who returned from the U.S. after a South American cruise.⁶ Lebanon confirmed five new cases of the virus, bringing their total to 30, all of which they have confirmed were brought in from abroad.⁷

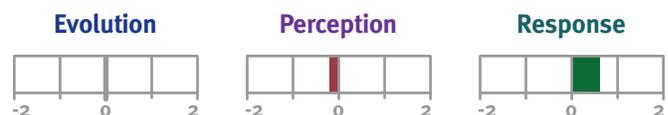


WHO AND CDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, the Director General of the WHO announced that at the moment, the H1N1 virus is “stable” and is not mutating.⁸ This announcement comes a week after reports that Brazilian scientists had identified a new strain of the virus in a local patient. The WHO is reporting 59,814 confirmed cases worldwide, including 263 deaths.⁹

The announcement came the same day that a spokesperson for the CDC announced that it estimates at least one million people in the U.S. could now have the H1N1 virus. The estimates are based off mathematical modeling and were announced at an advisory meeting.¹⁰

Wednesday, Health Officials in Monroe County New York said that “very high volumes” of patients visiting medical facilities are causing an enormous strain on the health care infrastructure. Officials urged people suffering from only mild symptoms to stay home and call their doctors for advice, in order to ensure that people exhibiting severe symptoms can obtain treatment.¹¹



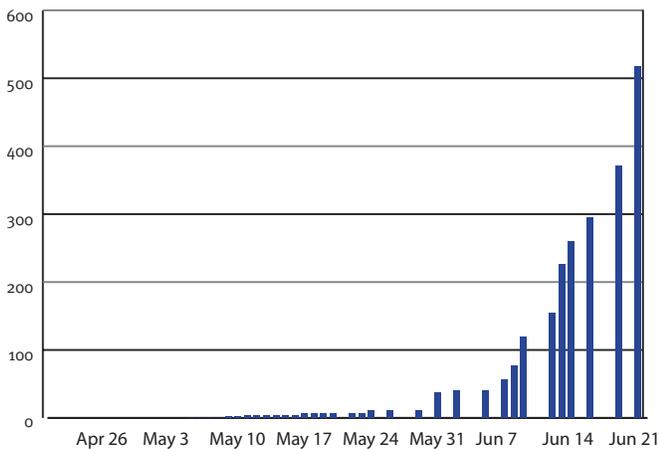
This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the “Thinking Ahead” service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on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

CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY

Manitoba's First Nations chiefs have declared a state of emergency due to the spread of the H1N1 virus throughout their indigenous communities. The announcement comes as First Nations chiefs continue battling federal officials over delays in getting medical supplies to their communities.¹² Needed supplies include items such as hand sanitizer, a very important preventative supply in First Nations communities which lack running water in most homes. There was outcry earlier this week over reports that the federal government delayed issuing hand sanitizer to the communities over concern that they contained alcohol. They were reportedly debating the affects it would have on these communities with high alcohol addiction rates.¹³

Thursday, Canada's Prime Minister stated that government officials are "very concerned" about the high incidence rate of the H1N1 virus being witnessed in aboriginal communities, in particular Manitoba.¹⁴ Canada has the world's third most confirmed cases of the virus and the total number of cases in Manitoba has sharply risen to 517 cases as of Wednesday.¹⁵

Manitoba Cumulative Confirmed Cases

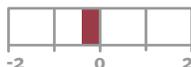


Source: PHAC (2009)

Evolution



Perception



Response

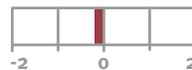


SINGAPORE SHIFTING TO MITIGATION PHASE; UK SOON TO FOLLOW?

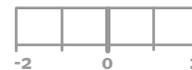
The National Scientific Committee of Singapore expects the country to shift into a full mitigation stage for the H1N1 virus within the next two weeks. They feel the virus has passed the tipping point as evidence confirmed that in only one week, the H1N1 virus accounted for 5% of the country's flu cases. Singapore will move into its mitigation phase once the virus accounts for 15% of the country's total flu cases. In a mitigation phase the focus will shift from trying to contain the spread of the virus, to concentrating on treatment.¹⁶

British Health Ministers are saying that the virus is spreading too fast to contain in the regions of London and the West Midlands. The government has already told health officials in two areas that they may have to discontinue the containment measures of lab testing and contact tracking, in order to focus on administering treatments.¹⁷

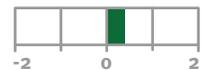
Evolution



Perception



Response



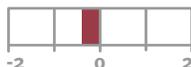
CHILEAN HOSPITALS REACHING CAPACITY

Wednesday afternoon, the Chilean government announced it will be suspending all non-emergency appointments at public health care facilities in order to help ease pressures on facilities reaching patient capacities. This announcement came a day after Argentina enacted the same type of measures in suspending all non-emergency surgeries. Waiting lines at public hospitals have been reported to be seven hours, while private clinics have reported four hour waits.¹⁸ Chile has confirmed 5,186 cases of the virus, including seven deaths.¹⁹

Evolution



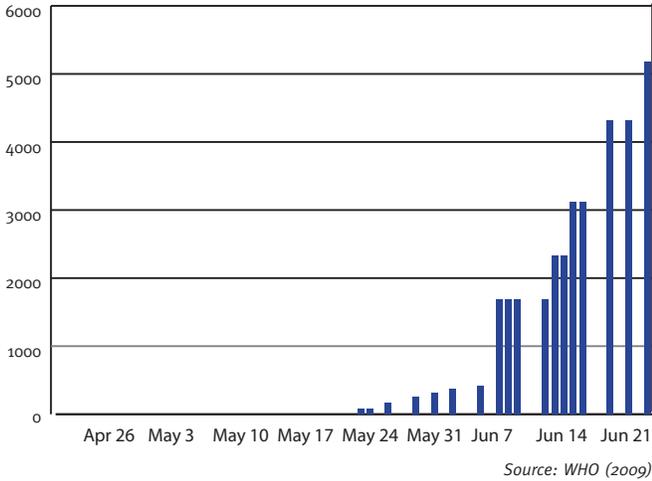
Perception



Response

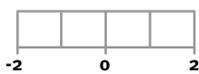
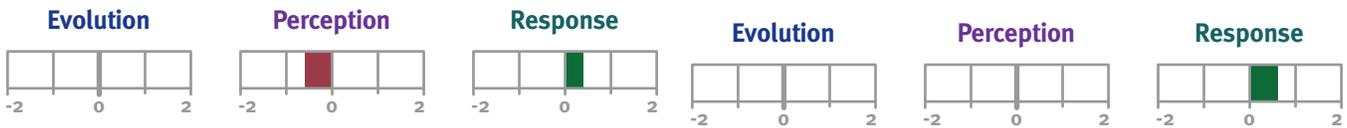


Chile Cumulative Confirmed Cases



ATHLETES MUST BE TESTED FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

Serbia, the host of next month's World University Games, is going to require all athletes to provide documented evidence that they do not have the H1N1 virus. Athletes that do not have a certificate stating they have tested negative will be quarantined. The Deputy Prime Minister also stated that all athletes and fans will be tested daily for symptoms in an effort to limit the spread of the virus. The World University Games is an international multi-sport event involving competitors from 142 countries that takes place July 1-12.²⁰ The announcement came after Serbia confirmed its first case of the H1N1 virus in a man returning from Argentina on Wednesday.



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 *TASR*. "Another A/H1N1 Novel Flu Case Confirmed in Slovakia." June 26, 2009. See: <http://www.tasr.sk/30.axd?k=20090626TBB00330>
- 2 Reuters. "Lithuania Confirms First Case of H1N1 Flu." June 26, 2009. See: http://www.reuters.com/article/internal_ReutersNewsRoom_ExclusivesAndWins_MOLT/idUSTRE55P3T620090626
- 3 *Jakarta Globe*. "Arrival of Swine Flu A Rude Awakening." June 26, 2009. See: <http://thejakartaglobe.com/opinion/arrival-of-swine-flu-a-rude-awakening/314725>
- 4 Reuters. "Laos Confirms First Three Cases of New Flu." June 25, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/middleeastCrisis/idUSBKK465722>
- 5 AFP. "Bangladesh Confirms Seven More Swine Flu Cases." June 24, 2009. See: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gWXR8qE7vsr-40qIIM_EFzegQDVg
- 6 STA. "Second Case of Swine Flu in Slovenia Confirmed." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&cid=1403949>
- 7 *Daily Star*. "Number of Swine Flu Infections Rises to 30 After 5 New Cases." June 24, 2009. See: http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=103442
- 8 AFP. "Swine Flu Virus 'Stable' for Now WHO Chief." June 25, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iHSaBB-9mhcyt1Acst5A7anbBrhA>
- 9 WHO. "Influenza A/H1N1 Update- 54." June 26, 2009. See: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_26/en/index.html
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- 11 *Fairport-ER Post*. "Flu Cases Strain Health Care System." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.mpnnow.com/news/x931202140/Flu-cases-strain-health-care-system>
- 12 *Winnipeg Sun*. "Chiefs Declare Emergency." June 25, 2009. See: <http://www.winnipegsun.com/news/manitoba/2009/06/25/9919491-sun.html>
- 13 CTV. "H1N1 Spread in First Nation Due to Poverty: Chief." June 24, 2009. See: http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090624/chiefs_090624/20090624?hub=TopStories
- 14 AFP. "Concern as Swine Flu Hits Canadian Remote Natives." June 25, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gDPVSYKyfzH0dDnwyRu7cNoYFouw>
- 15 PHAC. "Laboratory-Confirmed Cases of H1N1 Flu Virus June 24, 2009." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine-porcine/surveillance-eng.php>
- 16 Channel News Asia. "S'pore Could Move into Full H1N1 Mitigation Phase as Early as Next Week." June 25, 2009. See: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/438504/1/.html>
- 17 UPI. "H1N1 Flu Swamping London, West Midlands." June 26, 2009. See: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/06/26/H1N1-flu-swamping-London-West-Midlands/UPI-91761246025595/
- 18 Reuters. "Argentina reinforces hospitals as flu deaths rise." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/africaCrisis/idUSN24197936>
- 19 WHO. "Influenza A/H1N1 Update- 54." June 26, 2009. See: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_26/en/index.html
- 20 AP. "Swine Flu Testing to be Required at Sports Event." June 24, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gb2O3rOXKT0HgBEYuKCZbQJUiWAD9916B5G3>