

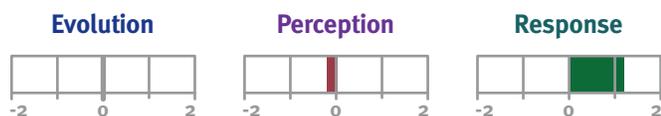
Tuesday, June 30, 2009

NEWLY INFECTED COUNTRIES INCREASE MEASURES

After confirming its first case of the H1N1 virus in a British student yesterday, Kenyan health officials have implemented new preventative measures to prohibit the spread of the virus to the country. All passengers entering the country through the international airport will be required to complete a mandatory health declaration form. Any passengers showing suspected flu-like symptoms will be isolated for four to eight hours while tests are taken to confirm if they are carrying the virus.¹

Nigeria's Minister of Health called for measures to increase surveillance of the H1N1 virus in Nigerian citizens. Today, he called on the media to keep a high level of vigilance on the spread of the virus within the country and also informed Nigerians traveling abroad to remain aware of the virus and stay away from crowds.²

Nepal's Health Ministry remains on high alert, sending about 50 Rapid Response teams to border entry points around the country. Specifically, the ministry has strengthened check-ups for incoming passengers at the country's only international airport after a family returning from the U.S. became the country's first confirmed cases yesterday.³



ASIAN COUNTRIES CONTINUE SHIFTING TO MITIGATION STRATEGIES

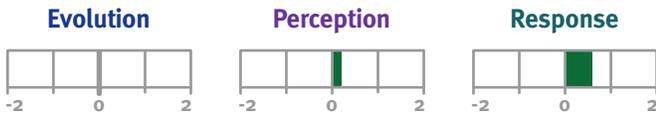
Singapore's Ministry of Health confirmed that they are shifting their pandemic response plan from containment to mitigation strategy. The shift comes as experts continue to learn more about the virus and how rapidly it continues to spread. As they shift to the new strategy, the ministry is no longer recommending citizens refrain from traveling to highly infected countries because the number of locally transmitted cases has overtaken cases entering from abroad. Australia and Japan Health Ministries also recently shifted to mitigation strategies.⁴

Today, the Philippines announced that it will be shifting its pandemic response plan from containment to mitigation strategy. New measures will include lifting the mandatory hospital confinements of suspected and confirmed H1N1 patients and implementing "selective testing." Selective testing will include only high risk individuals, travelers arriving from abroad with flu-like symptoms, and the first suspected cases in communities. All other suspected cases will no longer be tested as the country now has confirmed 861 cases of the virus with one related death.⁵

Yesterday, Hong Kong health officials announced that they will be scaling back preventative measures and no longer require patients with mild cases of the virus to be isolated in hospitals. The announcement came after 66 new cases

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.

were reported and officials confirmed H1N1 is now the region's predominate flu strain.⁶



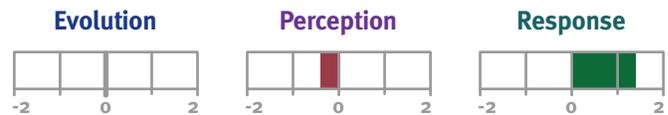
ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO IMPLEMENT NEW MEASURES FOR H1N1

While Argentina has seen a quick rise in H1N1 cases over the past few weeks, its 1,587 confirmed cases are not very high when compared to other countries in the Southern Hemisphere like Chile and Australia, with 5,186 and 4,038 confirmed cases respectively. Yet, reports continue to surface each day about medical facilities being overwhelmed in provinces such as Buenos Aires because of the number of Argentine citizens flocking to medical centers with fears that they may have symptoms of the virus.

A committee of Argentine government officials and medical experts met yesterday to discuss creating new measures in effort to deal with the H1N1 pandemic. While they did not declare a national health emergency as expected, they did announce new measures that will be implemented to deal with the spread of the virus. School districts were given permission to extend winter holiday breaks by two weeks to help minimize the spread of the virus in students. A new communication strategy will be implemented that makes a group of medical experts available for interviews in the hope of averting panic. Other measures include health centers making treatments available to people with suspected cases of the virus, and not only confirmed cases. The committee said it does not have plans to cancel any large public events, but they do recommend that people refrain from attending them to prevent the disease from spreading.⁷

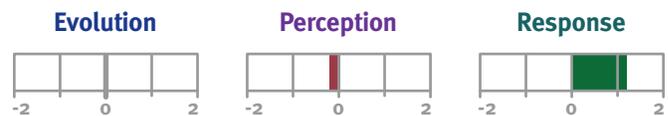
Six provinces have already suspended classes because of H1N1 outbreaks. Sources are also reporting that the emergency room in Argerich Hospital had “collapsed” because of an unmanageable number of visits.⁸ The Buenos Aires Province Health Ministry also continues to ask that a

health emergency be declared in their district because it has been the hardest hit by outbreaks. A health emergency declaration would allow needed medical supplies to be purchased with less government control, but the committee said they must, “make sure purchases are made properly.” Argentina has confirmed 1,587 cases of the H1N1 virus and reported 28 related deaths.⁹



SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNED ABOUT H1N1 AS HAJJ APPROACHES

This past weekend, Saudi Arabia invited medical and infectious disease experts from around the world, including the WHO and CDC, to a four day meeting in order to examine measures being enacted to prevent the spread of H1N1 during the Muslim pilgrimage of hajj. At the conclusion of the conference today, health experts recommended children, pregnant women, elderly, and those with chronic disease skip the annual pilgrimage to prevent contracting the virus. Experts also recommended that Saudi Arabia maintain screening measures at all points of entry in the country and urge pilgrims to receive flu shots two weeks before traveling leaving. Each year the pilgrimage attracts about 3 million Muslims to Saudi Arabia's holy cities. The meeting was arranged as other Arab nations began voicing concern over the spread of the virus during the gatherings. Egypt's Health Minister had stated that tens of thousands of Egyptians who attended hajj would risk being quarantined upon their return.¹⁰

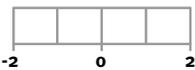
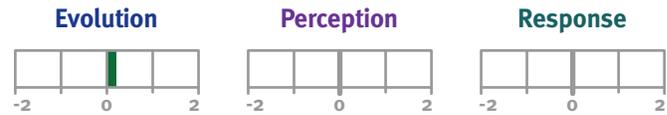


SPREAD OF H1N1 LINKED TO AIR TRAVEL

In a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Canadian researchers showed that there was a very high correlation between countries receiving incom-

ing passengers from Mexico during March and April and cases of the H1N1 virus. The major findings conclude that world air-traffic patterns can help countries anticipate and prevent the spread of future infectious diseases. Of the 20 top destinations from Mexico, 16 had confirmed cases of the virus imported from Mexico. Data for the research was collected from passenger flight itineraries and

International Air Transport Association from March and April 2008 because 2009 data was not yet available and global flight patterns from Mexico vary little year to year.¹¹



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 *Daily Nation*. "Tighter Airport Screening Over Swine Flu." June 30, 2009. See: <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/617280/-/item/0/-/6jmgpf/-/index.html>
- 2 AllAfrica. "Nigeria: Swine Flu — FG Intensifies Campaign." June 30, 2009. See: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200906300541.html>
- 3 Review Nepal. "Nepal strengthened precautionary measure to curb swine flu spreading." June 30, 2009. See: http://www.reviewnepal.com/more_news.php?id=1215
- 4 *Strait Times*. "Change in Attitude to H1N1." June 30, 2009. See: http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_397186.html
- 5 WHO. "The Philippines Moves from Containment to Mitigation." June 30, 2009. See: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/PSLG-7THH2T?OpenDocument>
- 6 WHO. "Australia Announces Seventh Death linked to Pandemic H1N1 2009." June 29, 2009. See: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7TGQ5R?OpenDocument>
- 7 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Districts authorized to extend winter holidays due to H1N1..." June 30, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/5253>
- 8 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Three More People Die of Influenza A, Source." June 30, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/5268>
- 9 See [vii].
- 10 AP. "Elderly, Kids Urged to Skip Hajj Over Swine Flu." June 30, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gimaS1Y8bBabviZRw78pmWCde0lgD9953NO80>
- 11 NEJM. "Spread of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus via Global Airline Transportation." June 29, 2009. See: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMc0904559>