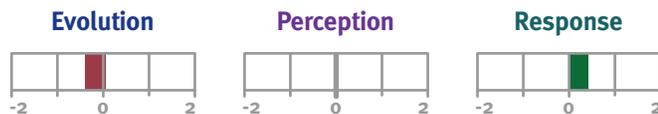


Wednesday, July 1, 2009

## H1N1 TREND UPDATE

Two more countries have reported their first confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus imported from abroad. Bosnia confirmed its first case of the H1N1 virus in 24-year old woman that recently arrived from South America.<sup>1</sup> Guam confirmed its first case of the virus in a woman that recently returned from a business conference in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

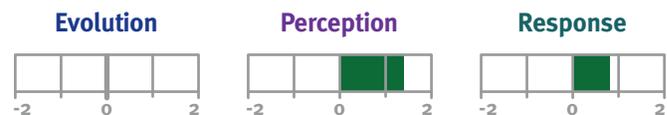
Malaysia confirmed that 33 of the 38 new cases of the virus it reported today were imported from abroad and now it has a total of 196 confirmed cases.<sup>3</sup> Malaysia's Health Department has been instructed to prepare masks to be handed out to all 20,000 music fans expected to attend the Rainforest Music Festival next week. Health officials have indicated they plan to implement additional preventative measures for the concert.<sup>4</sup>



## RUSSIA EASES MEAT IMPORTATION BANS

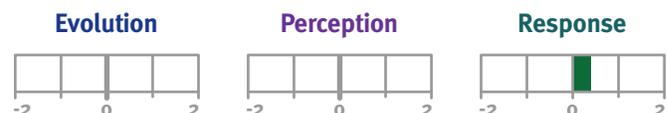
Russia has lifted some bans on importing meat from the U.S. and Canada in reaction to what it considers an improving situation with the H1N1 virus. Russia has removed the ban on imported meat from Canada's Quebec province and the U.S. states of Massachusetts,

Connecticut, and Michigan, and has also softened restrictions for Illinois and the Canada's Ontario province — now allowing imports of all meat except live pigs and uncooked pork. Russia still has banned the importation of all meat from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and Wisconsin because of the H1N1 virus.<sup>5</sup>



## WHO BEGINS THREE DAY MEETING

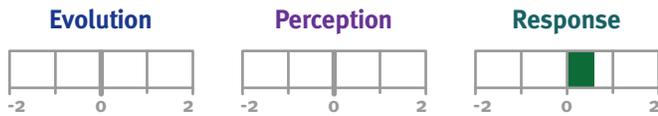
Today, the WHO convened a three day meeting with more than 20 independent disease experts in order to try and gain better understandings of how the H1N1 virus has jumped from a handful of cases to a worldwide pandemic in such a short period of time. Specifically, the WHO and participants will be working to try and mathematically model the spread of the virus. Many experts believe the actual number of cases is far greater than confirmed case counts being reported in highly infected countries. A WHO spokesman described what participants will be doing during the three day meetings by saying, "They will be working together to describe and predict the behavior and impact of the pandemic, and demonstrate potential outcomes of proposed intervention efforts."<sup>6</sup>



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).

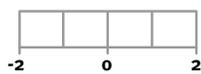
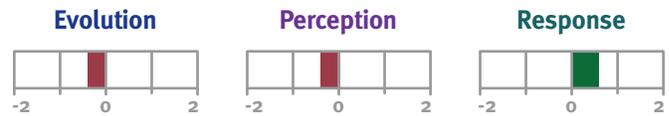
### CHINA SHIFTING H1N1 STRATEGY

Chinese health officials are starting to change their strategy in dealing with the H1N1 virus. China is going to begin shifting from a single, countrywide containment strategy of aggressive quarantine measures, to localized mitigation strategies at the provincial level. The changes come as a result of reports from some provinces, such as Guangdong, that locally transmitted case numbers have surpassed those brought in from abroad, and local health infrastructure is close to being overwhelmed. The Health Ministry is recommending that provinces start encouraging all patients with mild symptoms to stay home or seek treatment at outpatient facilities. Meanwhile, the central province of Shaanxi has planned six new strategies for local health officials to deal with the spread of the virus which it plans to announce soon.<sup>7</sup>



### BUENOS AIRES DECLARES HEALTH EMERGENCY

Last night, health authorities in the province of Buenos Aires formally declared a health emergency in response to the rising number of H1N1 cases and related deaths. Officials have confirmed 1,587 cases of human infection, and 35 related deaths. Fear has been high in Buenos Aires, as witnessed by so many people seeking medical evaluation, and the province's health facilities have been at least temporarily overwhelmed. The declaration allows province officials to suspend classes along with public events and activities. The mayor said there are no plans to close stores, restaurants, shopping malls, or any public transportation at this point.<sup>8</sup>



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, 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
<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. "Bosnia Identifies First H1N1 Flu Case." July 1, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-SwineFlu/idUSTRE5602M020090701>
- 2 *Guam NewsFactor*. "Guam's First H1N1 Case Confirmed." July 1, 2009. See: <http://www.guamnewsfactor.com/20090701579/Top-Stories/Guam-s-First-H1N1-Case-Confirmed-Status-Of-Her-Immediate-Family-Undetermined.html>
- 3 *The Sun*. "H1N1: 38 New Cases in Singel Day." July 1, 2009. See: <http://www.thesundaily.com/article.cfm?id=35241>
- 4 *The Star*. "A(H1N1): Face Masks for all at Rainforest Festival." July 1, 2009. See: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/7/1/nation/20090701184035&sec=nation>
- 5 Reuters Canada. "Russia Lifts, Softens Flu Meat Bans on U.S., Canada." July 1, 2009. See: <http://ca.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idCATRE56037O20090701>
- 6 AP. "WHO working on formulas to model swine flu spread." July 1, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hG6zmXnY6v5La-llZ8qbQIrdE-WAD995R0VG0>
- 7 *Wall Street Journal*. "China Rethinks H1N1 Flu Strategies." July 1, 2009. See: <http://blogs.wsj.com/chinajournal/2009/07/01/china-rethinks-h1n1-flu-strategies/>
- 8 AP. "Argentine Regions Declare Swine Flu Emergency." July 1, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hsf2UAZB7Mf3uiufAFktOwi1zmsAD995AV8O1>