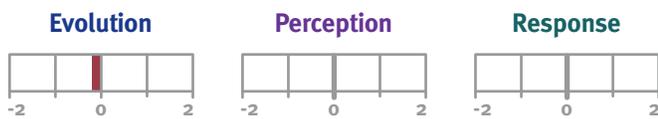


Tuesday, July 7, 2009

## H1N1 TREND UPDATE

Sunday, Libya announced its first confirmed case of the H1N1 virus in a 52-year old man who recently arrived from Thailand.<sup>1</sup> Macedonia also confirmed its first cases of the H1N1 virus in two people who recently returned from traveling abroad.<sup>2</sup> On Saturday, Syria confirmed its first case of the H1N1 virus in an Australian woman who recently arrived in the country.<sup>3</sup>

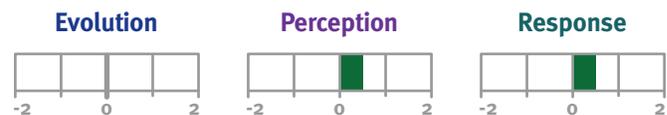


## WHO: DOWNPLAYS TAMIFLU RESISTANCE; SHIFTING TO LESS TESTING

Today, a WHO spokesperson announced that it does not see H1N1 Tamiflu resistance spreading in a sustainable way. The announcement comes after three cases of Tamiflu resistance were confirmed in Denmark, Hong Kong, and Japan last week. The WHO does not recommend any changes in approaches toward the treatment of the virus and said, "Right now these examples of oseltamivir resistance remain sporadic cases. We do not see any evidence of widespread movement of oseltamivir resistant viruses."<sup>4</sup> In its latest update on the spread of H1N1, the WHO has confirmed 94,512 cases and 429 deaths worldwide.<sup>5</sup>

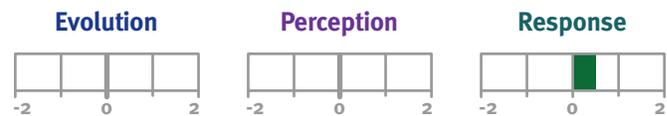
The WHO also announced today that it will soon be issuing updated surveillance recommendations for countries to follow. The new surveillance recommendations will

urge countries with large case loads to shift from worrying about individual testing results to looking for "larger national indicators of the disease." A WHO spokesperson stated, "Because the number of cases have increased in so many countries it is very hard to keep up and so we need to move towards these kinds of indicators to keep following on with the trend of the pandemic."<sup>6</sup>



## UN: \$1 BILLION NEEDED TO COMBAT SWINE FLU

Yesterday, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General announced that it projects it will need funding of more than \$1 billion dollars to assist poorer countries in coping with the spread of the H1N1 virus. These funds will be used to obtain vaccine and antiviral supplies for the world's poorest countries, which the WHO's chief classified as "empty-handed" in their preparedness for dealing with the spread of the virus. The WHO's chief elaborated stating that they want to send minimum vaccine stockpiles to at least 49 of the world's poorest countries, and estimate that stockpiles large enough to cover 5% of the countries populations would be reasonable for ensuring that at least health care providers are protected. The UN Security-General said, "Public funding should come first before we ask for any private fundings."<sup>7</sup>



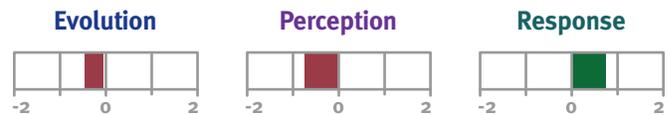
This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the "Thinking Ahead" service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on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

## ARGENTINA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL H1N1 MEASURES

Over the past week, government officials in Argentina have reacted to the rising number of cases and deaths by declaring health emergencies in 17 of 24 provinces. Officials announced more measures over the weekend aimed at reducing the spread of the virus, including the closure of public offices for 30 days. Argentina's H1N1 related death toll has more doubled over the past week to 60 confirmed deaths.<sup>8</sup> Even a group of theater owners has announced they will be closing down for 10 days because of a sharp decline in attendance.

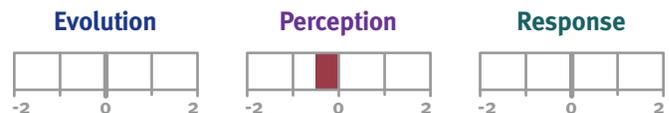
The rising number of H1N1 cases and deaths in Argentina has also begun to raise doubts among citizens there about how the government is handling the outbreak. In recent years, there have been several controversies and scandals regarding the government's reporting of key economic indicators, including accusations that data has been manipulated. These scandals seem to have spilled over and affected perceptions around H1N1, causing some citizens to question the reporting on H1N1 cases around the country, and the government's general handling of the situation. Interviewed citizens were cited as saying things

like, "I don't pay any attention to what they're saying. I don't have any confidence in them."<sup>9</sup>



## H1N1 RELATED PRISON RIOT OUTSIDE BOSTON

Two days after a small riot among inmates at the Middlesex County Jail outside of Boston forced the temporary evacuation of the facility, investigators have concluded that the riot was, at least in part, fueled by fears of the H1N1 virus spreading through the jail. The small jail built to house 160 inmates, had been holding 403, and one inmate had been diagnosed with the virus on June 30<sup>th</sup>, while two more staff members were treated for symptoms. On Sunday, two more inmates were quarantined because of flu like symptoms, and shortly thereafter, a small riot broke out during which water pipes were smashed open and created a flood that forced the evacuation of the jail.<sup>10</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, transmissability, and/or virulence of the disease	No Net Change	Indicates or portends lower transmission, transmissability, 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. "Libya reports first case of new H1N1 flu." July 5, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-SwineFlu/idUSTRE5641B720090705>
- 2 Reuters. "Macedonia confirms first two cases of H1N1 flu virus." July 5, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/middleeastCrisis/idUSCAS468178>
- 3 *Times of India*. "Syria Confirms First Swine Flu Case." July 4, 2009. See: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Middle-East/Syria-confirms-first-swine-flu-case/articleshow/4738230.cms>
- 4 Reuters. "WHO sees no sign of Tamiflu-resistant H1N1 spreading." July 7, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSWLA842120090707>
- 5 WHO. "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - Update 58." July 6, 2009. See: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>
- 6 ABS-CBN News. "WHO to ask infected countries to stop testing swine flu cases." July 7, 2009. See: <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/world/07/07/09/who-ask-infected-countries-stop-testing-swine-flu-cases>
- 7 AP. "U.N. Head: \$1B Needed Against Swine Flu." July 6, 2009. See: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/06/health/main5136988.shtml?tag=topnews>
- 8 *Inside Costa Rica*. "Argentina Applying A(H1N1) Measures." July 4, 2009. See: <http://insidecostarica.com/dailynews/2009/july/04/la03.htm>
- 9 Reuters. "Argentines question government as flu spreads." July 6, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSN06288963>
- 10 *Boston Herald*. "Jail tapes eyed for mayhem clues.." July 7, 2009. See: [http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20090707jail\\_tapes\\_eyed\\_for\\_mayhem\\_clues/srvc=home&position=also](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20090707jail_tapes_eyed_for_mayhem_clues/srvc=home&position=also)