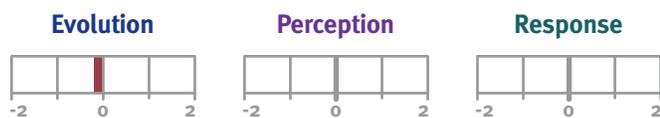


Wednesday, July 8, 2009

H1N1/09 TREND UPDATE

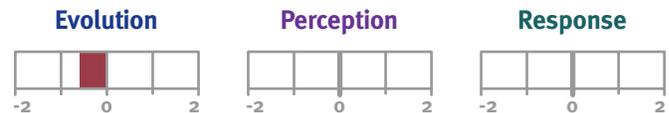
Today, Tanzania confirmed its first case of the H1N1/09 virus in a British student who fell ill and was hospitalized earlier this month.¹ Belize confirmed its first five cases of the H1N1/09 virus and is awaiting results of tests for 15 other suspected cases.² No specific information was released about the patients' travel histories.



CANADA IDENTIFIES NEW INFLUENZA STRAIN

The Public Health Agency of Canada has identified a new strain of influenza in two farm workers who fell ill in Saskatchewan about a month ago. They claim it is not a strain of the pandemic H1N1/09 virus, but scientists described it as being made up of genes from the human seasonal flu virus and swine flu virus. Testing of some pigs on the farm suggested that they may have been infected with the swine influenza A virus, but there was no evidence of a new human strain present in them. Both workers suffered only mild flu like symptoms and are reported to have fully recovered. Canada's Health Minister said, "Preliminary results indicate the risk to public health is low and that Canadians who have been vaccinated against the regular, seasonal flu should have some immunity to this new flu strain."³

Bio-era will continue to monitor developments in relation to new strains or mutations of the H1N1 virus, as any physical evolutions in the virus could have significant impacts on the pandemic's global effect.



GOVERNMENTS HOLDING GLOBAL MEETINGS OVER H1N1

The White House has announced that it will hold an all day H1N1 Flu Preparedness Summit on July 9th, in order to discuss with states how they can prepare for the possibility of more severe outbreaks of H1N1/09 when the fall flu season comes around. Hosts of the summit will include representatives from the Health and Human Services and Homeland Security.⁴

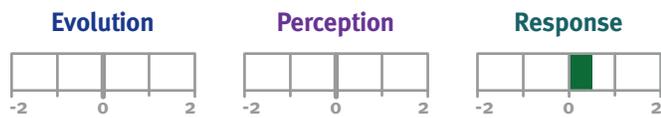
Today in Canada, about 200 disease experts are meeting in Toronto to discuss the H1N1/09 pandemic as well. They will discuss how to aggressively deal with the new strain of influenza recently discovered in two Canadian farmers, as well as share information from around the country about H1N1/09 and ways in which to set up research collaborations.⁵

At the end of last week the Mexican government convened a two day meeting with health officials from the

* The WHO recently announced that it decided it will call the new pandemic H1N1/09.

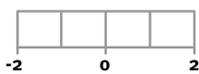
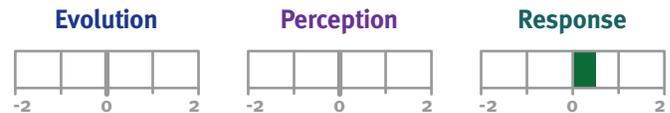
This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the "Thinking Ahead" service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on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

WHO and more than 20 other countries in order to discuss some of the lessons learned in dealing with the pandemic. They also discussed ways to continue preparing for more outbreaks of the disease focusing on issues that included vaccines, antivirals, public health measures, International Health Regulations, and risk communications. The WHO is using the information gathered from these discussions to prepare more informed guidelines and preparations for countries to follow.⁶



RUSSIA CONTINUES TO EASE PORK IMPORT BANS

Russia's Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Monitoring Service is lifting its ban on pork imports from the U.S. states of Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas and New Jersey because it says that the H1N1/09 virus situation in these states has stabilized. It is also lifting the cuts on pork imported from Chile and Argentina that it had implemented. Russia was using pork importation cuts and bans in order to try and prevent the H1N1/09 virus from entering the country.⁷ Last week Russia lifted some meat and pork import bans on a few other U.S. states and Canadian provinces.



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
<p>Physical Evolution</p> <p>How significant is the development with respect to the evolution, transmissability, and virulence of the disease?</p>	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
<p>Perception</p> <p>How significant is the development with respect to perceptions of threat (i.e., fears of the disease)?</p>	Indicates or promotes heightened fear of the disease	No Net Effect	Indicates or promotes lower fear of the disease
<p>Response/Reaction</p> <p>To what degree does the response help or hinder the effort to mitigate the impacts the disease?</p>	Expected to exacerbate disease impacts	No Net Impact	Expected to mitigate disease impacts

- 1 AFP. "Tanzania records first swine flu case." July 8, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g3ksKmg8kifmQ1hrotK1vcv-GZjw>
- 2 *Caribbean 360*. "Belize Confirms First Five Swine Flu Cases." July 8, 2009. See: <http://www.caribbean360.com/News/Caribbean/Stories/2009/07/08/NEWS0000008052.html>
- 3 PHAC. "Government of Canada Identifies New Strain of Influenza." July 7, 2009. See: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2009/2009_0707-eng.php
- 4 DHHS. "The White House Announces H1N1 Flu Preparedness Summit." July 8, 2009. See: <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/26165>
- 5 *The Canadian Press*. "Infectious disease experts meet in Toronto to discuss pandemic flu virus." July 8, 2009. See: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5gHmCT0otgQp0FoiOZXjtpMXF7gJA>
- 6 PHAC. "International meeting advances global response to H1N1Canada continues to play a leadership role." July 2, 2009. See: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2009/2009_0702-eng.php
- 7 *Meat International*. "Russia allows pork imports from some US states." July 8, 2009. See: <http://www.meatinternational.com/news/russia-allows-pork-imports-from-some-us-states-id1600.html>