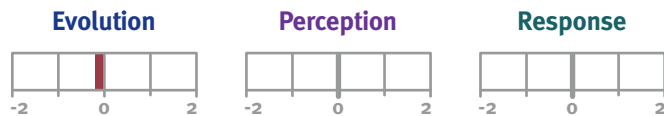


Thursday, July 9, 2009

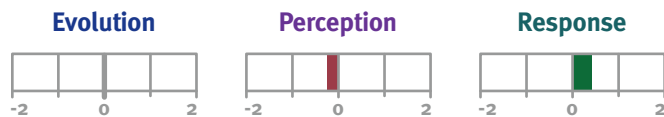
H1N1/09 TREND UPDATE

Yesterday, Zimbabwe confirmed its first two cases of the H1N1/09 virus in a man who recently arrived from London and a squash player that arrived from South Africa. Zimbabwe's Health Minister quickly tried to deflate any growing fear surrounding the stability of the country's health infrastructure, announcing that the country is ready to fight the disease and already has a stockpile of 21,400 courses of antiviral treatment.¹



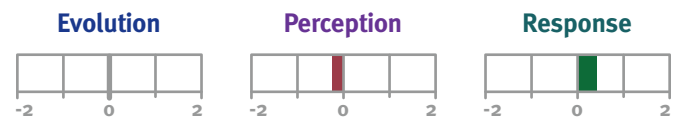
THAILAND SUSPENDING SUMMER SCHOOLS

Thailand government officials have announced that they are ordering more than 1,000 summer schools to suspend classes for 15 days beginning Monday, to try to prevent further spread of the H1N1/09 virus. The government is also asking internet gaming cafes, which are popular social gathering spots, to close down during the same period of time.² Thailand has confirmed 2,076 cases of the virus and 7 related deaths.³



ARGENTINA EXTENDS HOLIDAY TO CURB H1N1/09 SPREAD

Today is a national holiday in Argentina, and to mitigate the spread of the H1N1/09 virus the government will extend the holiday and close the national stock exchange and all private banks through Friday. Officials are hoping that a four-day weekend will keep people at home and deter the spread of the virus in the nation's capital of Buenos Aires.⁴ Federal and local government offices in Buenos Aires, along with local theaters, have already announced that they will shut down to minimize the spread of the disease. Over the weekend, Argentina confirmed nearly 900 new cases of H1N1/09 and more than doubled its death toll of 60.⁵

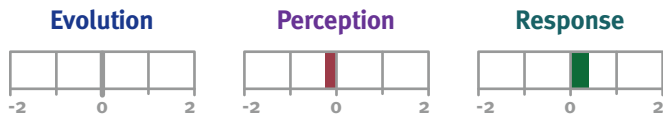


BRAZIL TAKING STRICT MEASURES ON ARGENTINE BORDER

In reaction to the rapidly rising case count of the H1N1/09 virus in Argentina, Brazil's Health Ministry announced yesterday that authorities will begin enforcing strict screening measures at crossing points on the Argentine border. Health officials say that at least one-third of Brazil's 977 confirmed H1N1/09 cases can be traced to people who recently traveled from Argentina. Federal Highway Police and the Armed Forces will work together with the Health Ministry to support these new

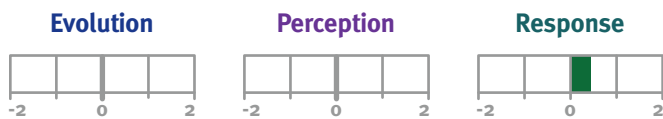
This document has been prepared by bio-era as a part of the "Thinking Ahead" service, designed to support commercial decision-making in response to the anticipated commercial and economic impacts of novel H1N1 pandemic influenza. The service seeks to monitor and evaluate current developments based on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

measures, a large portion of which will concentrate on truck drivers who frequently cross back and forth over the border.⁶ No specific details about the screening measures were revealed.



PARAGUAY PASSES LEGISLATION FOR H1N1/09 SUPPORT

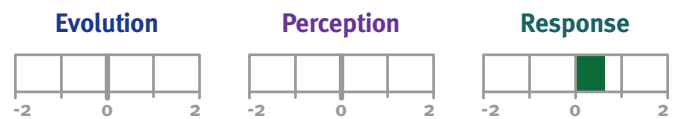
Yesterday, Paraguay announced that it approved new emergency legislation in order to help the government and health infrastructure cope with the effects of mounting H1N1/09 cases. The new legislation opens up approximately \$19.2 million for health officials to strengthen the public health infrastructure's service capacities and also gives President Fernando Lugo more power to enact any further measures he sees necessary. Paraguay has confirmed 110 cases of the virus, 50 of which are severely ill, and Paraguay's Health Minister says hospitals have been struggling to handle the surges of H1N1/09 and seasonal flu cases.⁷



AUSTRALIA BOOSTING H1N1/09 RESEARCH EFFORTS

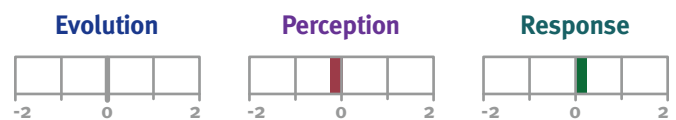
Today Australia announced that it will be funding US\$5.45 million worth of research projects geared toward learning more about the H1N1/09 virus and developing

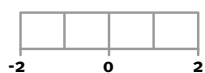
better responses to future outbreaks. Overall, 41 projects will examine issues surrounding the virus, including why some people develop more severe symptoms than others, how to improve detection, and how to strengthen containment efforts in indigenous communities. The projects will aim for quick results and include researchers from Australia, the U.S., New Zealand, and Singapore.⁸



CONCERN OVER H1N1/09 IMPACTING LARGE CONCERT EVENTS

Concern over the spread of the H1N1/09 virus is causing governments to recommend the postponement of large concert events in at least a few countries. Bolivian officials have forced reggaeton singing star Daddy Yankee to postpone three major concerts scheduled to begin later this week due to concern over the virus. Argentina is taking similar steps as officials have postponed at least three large concert and show events scheduled to take place over the upcoming week. A note on one promoter's website cited reasons for the postponement, stating "Following the recommendations of national and provincial authorities, Crack Producciones has decided to re-schedule its artists... until fear of flu contagion dissipates and all the fans can fully enjoy their artists' shows."⁹





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. "Zimbabwe Records First Swine Flu Cases." July 9, 2009. See: <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/621576/-/138trcxz/-/>
- 2 ABC News. "Thailand Takes Drastic Swine Flu Measures." July 9, 2009. See: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/09/2621801.htm?section=justin>
- 3 WHO. "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 58." July 6, 2009. See: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>
- 4 *Buenos Aires Herald*. "Argentina paralyzed for four days due to H1N1." July 9, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/5976>
- 5 WHO. "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 58." July 6, 2009. See: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>
- 6 *Money Times*. "Brazil Enacts Strict Measures Near Argentine Border to Curb A/H1N1." July 9, 2009. See: <http://www.themoneytimes.com/featured/20090709/brazil-enacts-strict-measures-near-argentina-border-curb-h1n1-id-1075817.html>
- 7 *Khaleej Times*. "Paraguay Approves Emergency Swine Flu Measures." July 8, 2009. See: http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2009/July/international_July650.xml§ion=international&col=
- 8 WHO. "Australia announces new research into Pandemic H1N1." July 9, 2009. See: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/JBRN-7TSHHP?OpenDocument>
- 9 *Billboard*. "Daddy Yankee, Babasonicos Alter Tour Dates Due To Swine Flu." July 8, 2009. See: http://www.billboard.biz/bbbiz/content_display/industry/e3i607dcf03868690e2d96678f660656315