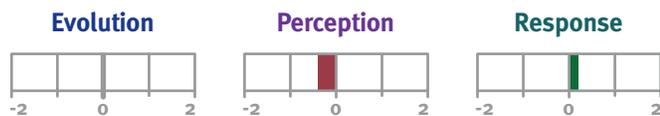


Tuesday, July 14, 2009

SAUDI ARABIA MAKES VACCINATIONS FOR HAJJ MANDATORY

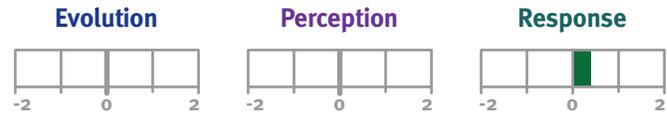
Today, Saudi Arabia announced that it will be mandatory for all Hajj pilgrims to receive H1N1/09 vaccinations at least two weeks prior to making the pilgrimage or they will be quarantined at their point of disembarkation. The seasonal flu vaccine will also be mandatory, and officials will require proof through health documents signed by government doctors.¹



THAILAND STEPPING UP PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

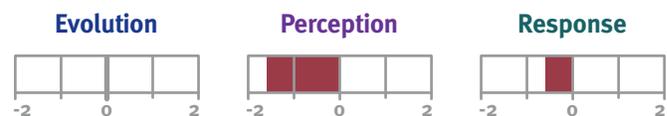
Today, Thailand announced that it will be closing 435 schools in the country's capital of Bangkok for five days to slow the spread of the H1N1/09 virus. School officials will also use this time to thoroughly clean the schools before students return.²

Bangkok's Mass Transit Authority (BMTA) is also proposing a new measure against H1N1/09 for the public transportation systems. It has proposed to equip all of the city's public transportation vehicles with alcohol-based sanitizers as a major preventative measure. The BMTA has already implemented preventative measures such as mandatory daily cleanings, and requiring drivers and fare collectors to wear preventative masks.³



INDONESIA MOVES TO LEVEL 6 ALERT

Indonesian Health Authorities announced today that they are moving the country's alert level to 6, because they say that there is a high risk the H1N1/09 flu could combine with H5N1 avian flu. To date, Indonesia has confirmed 86 cases and no related deaths.⁴ There has been global concern over the H1N1/09 virus mutating, specifically in countries like Indonesia where there have been large outbreaks of the H5N1 virus in the past.



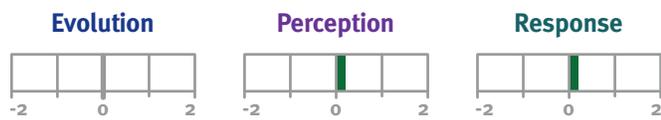
SOUTH AFRICA ALREADY SHIFTING STRATEGY

After confirming its first case of the H1N1/09 virus in a boy returning from the U.S. on June 18, South Africa is preparing to shift into a mitigation strategy. Currently, the country has seen its caseload increase to 75 confirmed cases, and health officials have decided they will stop counting cases of the virus once 100 cases has been confirmed. Yesterday a health department spokesman said that once 100 cases is reached, "We will begin to focus on cases with severe symptoms, high risk groups and clusters of infections as recently seen from the tournament held in

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.

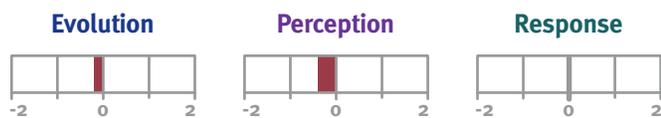
Johannesburg.”⁵ Johannesburg just finished hosting the World Federation soccer cup, in preparation for hosting the FIFA World Cup next summer.

Health officials have classified the majority of South Africa’s cases as mild, and like other countries suspect that there are many more than the 75 confirmed cases. The continent of Africa has confirmed a total of 201 cases of the H1N1/09 virus, the majority of which have been in Egypt and South Africa, with 78 and 75 cases respectively.⁶



ARGENTINE DEATH TOLL NOW WORLD’S SECOND HIGHEST

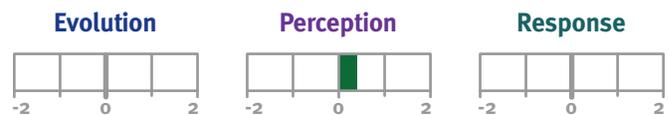
Today, Argentine Health Officials announced they have confirmed 43 more confirmed H1N1/09-related deaths. The total number of confirmed H1N1/09 related deaths has now reached 137, with 69 of those deaths in the Buenos Aires province.⁷ Now only the U.S. has more H1N1/09-related deaths, as these new numbers push Argentina past Mexico for related death tolls.



POLL SHOWS VARYING FEAR LEVELS WORLDWIDE

A recent survey of 18,588 people in 19 countries conducted by the Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research (WIN) shows that global fear perceptions of the H1N1/09 virus are varying. Globally, WIN’s polls showed that 28% of the people surveyed were “concerned or very concerned” about H1N1/09. Of the countries surveyed, China’s participants showed the highest level of concern, at 66%. China was followed by France and Mexico where 40% and 30% of participants were concerned, respectively. Canada, the U.S., and U.K. polls found concern in only 20% of participants.⁸

The poll also surveyed participants on how prepared they felt their country was to deal with a mass outbreak of the H1N1/09 virus. Swiss polls showed that 83% of participants felt the country was ready to deal with a mass outbreak, while American polls showed only 32% of participants felt the country is prepared for a mass outbreak.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 *Business Standard*. “Swine flu vaccination compulsory for Haj pilgrims.” July 14, 2009. See: <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/swine-flu-vaccination-compulsory-for-haj-pilgrims-tharoor/67655/on>
- 2 Reuters. “Thai capital to close 435 schools to halt H1N1 spread.” July 14, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSBKK452436>
- 3 MCOT. “BMTA plans new measure to counter H1N1.” July 14, 2009. See: <http://enews.mcot.net/view.php?id=10779>
- 4 Asia News. “Swine flu: Indonesia fears combination of avian and swine flus.” July 14, 2009. See: <http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=15776&size=A>
- 5 *The Citizen*. “Different approach to swine flu.” July 13, 2009. See: <http://www.citizen.co.za/index/article.aspx?pDesc=100180,1,22>
- 6 *The Citizen*. See [ii]
- 7 *Buenos Aires Herald*. “Argentina second highest H1N1 death toll: 137.” July 14, 2009. See: <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/BreakingNews/View/5842>
- 8 Sun Media. “INTERNATIONAL: Canadians ‘less panicky’ than other countries: Poll.” July 13, 2009. See: <http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1653909>
- 9 Sun Media. See [v]