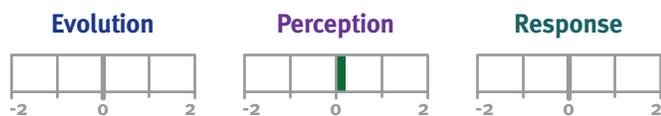


Thursday, July 16, 2009

## HARVARD RELEASES STUDY ON AMERICAN H1N1/09 PERCEPTIONS

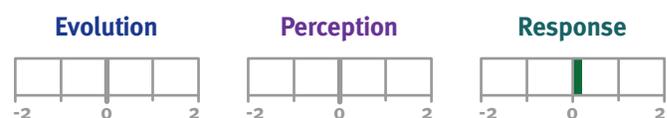
A recent study, conducted by the Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard School of Public Health, polled 1,823 Americans on their perceptions of the H1N1/09 pandemic. The study found that 59% of participants believe it is somewhat or very likely that H1N1/09 will become more severe in the fall and winter. Interestingly, the study shows that 61% of participants are not concerned about them or their family falling ill from the virus. This percentage has not changed from Harvard Opinion Research Program's original poll, conducted in the beginning of May.<sup>1</sup>

Other statistics from the study found that only 22% of the participants knew that the WHO raised the alert level to Phase 6, and 62% said that they or their household wash hands or use sanitizer more frequently. Regarding personal income, 44% of participants said that they would experience personal financial issues if they were forced to take of 7-10 days off from work due to H1N1/09 illness, or were required to care for an ill individual. Furthermore, 25% said that they would likely lose their job or business. The parents surveyed in the study were asked if school closings of two weeks would affect their jobs. Results showed that 43% said that it would likely cause them to lose income and have financial issues, while 26% felt that they would lose their job or business as a result.<sup>2</sup>



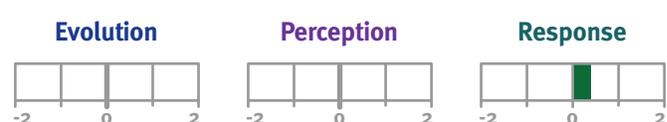
## WHO RELEASES DATA ON H1N1/09 SPREAD IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Today, the WHO released preliminary data from a sample 7% of cases confirmed in the Western Pacific region through July 2. The initial data shows that even though H1N1/09 was first confirmed in New Zealand on April 29, in a group of Mexican students, it did not begin to spread throughout regions of the Western Pacific until the third week of May. There were 789 cases analyzed, of which 586 reported they had recently arrived from another country. The data revealed 52% of the sample cases originated in the U.S., 16% in Australia, and 12% in Canada. The data also showed that border screening identified 22% of the cases in the sample.<sup>3</sup>



## SOUTH AMERICAN HEALTH OFFICIALS MEET

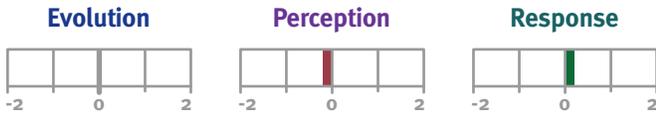
Health ministers from six South American countries met in Argentina yesterday to discuss how the countries are individually dealing with H1N1/09, and ways to coordinate responses. The ministers discussed their concerns regarding the quick spread of the virus, and also discussed antiviral provisions for the region. No reports have been released discussing any other outcomes of the meeting.<sup>4</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).

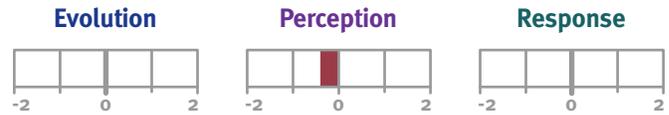
## INDONESIA ENFORCING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

The Indonesian Hotel and Restaurants Association in Bali has asked all restaurants and hotels to begin providing guests with preventative masks as well as Tamiflu doses. The preventative measures are being enacted in an effort to mitigate the spread of the virus among travelers on the island. A spokesperson said, “We’re on high alert because Bali is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the world.”<sup>5</sup>



## PERUVIAN DOCTORS ON PARTIAL STRIKE

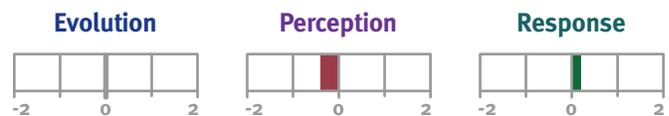
Yesterday in Peru, doctors throughout the country began a partial strike, demanding more funding and higher salaries to help them deal with the H1N1/09 pandemic. According to the president of the Peruvian Medical Federation, this partial strike is only affecting assistance at external medical offices and emergency services have not been affected. The federation’s president has been meeting with Peru’s Prime Minister to try to end the strikes, but so far no compromises have been reached. The government has said that if a compromise is not reached within a reasonable amount of time, it would “impose order and authority” over the matters.<sup>6</sup>

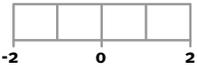


## AUSTRALIA AND U.K ESTIMATE WORST CASE SCENARIO

Today, Australia’s Health Minister said that in a “worst case scenario” for the H1N1/09 pandemic, where no vaccines or other preventative measures are effective, they estimate around 6,000 deaths would occur within the country. To date, Australia has confirmed 10,387 cases of the virus and 21 related deaths.<sup>7</sup>

The U.K. Department of Health released a report today with an updated count of the confirmed H1N1/09 deaths along with a worst-case-scenario estimate. Officials reported that there have been 29 H1N1/09-related deaths in the country, and a “reasonable worst case scenario” would yield 18,000-63,000 deaths throughout the country. The U.K.’s Chief Medical Officer said that these estimates were developed to prepare worst-case-scenario plans. The report also shows that estimated absenteeism could reach 12% of the workforce at H1N1/09’s first peak.<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
<p><b>Physical Evolution</b> 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><b>Perception</b> 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><b>Response/Reaction</b> 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 HSPS. "National Survey Finds Six in Ten Americans Believe Serious Outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1) Likely in Fall/Winter." July 16, 2009. See: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/2009-releases/national-survey-americans-influenza-a-h1n1-outbreak-fall-winter.html>
- 2 HSPS. See:[i].
- 3 WHO. "New data track Pandemic (H1N1)'s early spread in the Western Pacific." July 16, 2009. See: [http://www.wpro.who.int/media\\_centre/news/news\\_20091607.htm](http://www.wpro.who.int/media_centre/news/news_20091607.htm)
- 4 *Momento24*. "Swine flu: What was the outcome of the meeting of Health Ministers from six South American countries?" July 16, 2009. See: <http://momento24.com/en/2009/07/16/swine-flu-what-was-the-outcome-of-the-meeting-of-health-ministers-from-six-south-american-countries/>
- 5 *Jakarta Post*. "Hotels required to provide masks, Tamiflu to guests." July 16, 2009. See: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/07/16/hotels-required-provide-masks-tamiflu-guests.html>
- 6 *Inside Costa Rica*. "Doctor's Strike in Peru." July 16, 2009. See: <http://insidecostarica.com/dailynews/2009/july/16/la03.htm>
- 7 Reuters. "Australia's "worst case scenario" 6,000 H1N1 deaths." July 16, 2009. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSSYD537212>
- 8 UKDOH. "Swine Flu: UK Planning Assumptions." July 16, 2009. See: <http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/flu-dh-16072009.pdf>