

New Implications of the H1N1 Virus found in Study



March 9, 2010 (MMD Newswire) -- Results show that the recent H1N1 threat is a concern to 36% of respondents in a recent study. Those who are concerned about the virus are individuals who consider themselves at-risk of contracting the H1N1 virus.

Educating the public is the key to stemming the tide of hysteria that is often accompanied with the threat of a global pandemic, many believe. However, this is not necessarily the case since those who are knowledgeable about the virus are more concerned about its implications than those who are not knowledgeable.

One-in-three believe that the government is doing enough to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus. This includes half of those who are knowledgeable about the virus as well as half of those who are NOT worried about the virus. Finally, those who believe that the virus is a short-term issue also believe that the government is doing enough (55%). Conversely, only 31% of those who believe that they are at-risk of contracting the H1N1 virus believe that the government is doing enough.

According to 70% of respondents, the H1N1 virus is NOT a short-term issue. Those who believe that H1N1 may develop into a long-term issue also believe that they are likely to contract the H1N1 virus and that the government is not doing enough to prevent the spread of the virus.

In order to help prevent the spread of the virus, 85% of respondents are washing their hands frequently, 66% are using hand sanitizers and 39% are avoiding crowded public places. Only 27% are taking the H1N1 vaccine and 17% are travelling less frequently as a result of the H1N1 threat.

Epidemics, and to a lesser extent pandemics, will continue to inflict harm on the world, and the government's role in making best efforts to thwart the spread of the virus may not be enough since education raises the level of concern. The data suggests that to successfully stem the tide it may be necessary to limit knowledge which will help to reduce concern about the virus.

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