



When Pigs Fly
International Programmes in
the
Year of Swine Flu



St. Michael's University School
Outstanding preparation for higher learning and for life.

Overview



1. What happened? Tracing the epidemic through the headlines
 - King's Edgehill experience
 - SMUS summer program experience
2. What was the impact? H1N1 Survey
3. What did we learn?
 - Mistakes made
 - Strategies that worked



April 21, 2009



First stories about swine flu appear in English-language media:

Los Angeles Times

COPYRIGHT 2009 80 PAGES

DESIGNATED AREA BOOKER 50c

Reports of Swine Flu Emerge

SAN DIEGO -- Two mysterious cases of swine flu have been found in Imperial and San Diego counties, leading to an investigation by state, local and federal health officials to find the source.



When Pigs Fly

April 25, 2009



The WHO issues a disease-outbreak notice on April 24 then a “public health emergency of international concern” the following day:

Los Angeles Times

COPYRIGHT 2008 80 PAGES

DESIGNATED AREA 50c

Swine Flu Is Declared a 'Public Health Emergency'

MEXICO CITY -- International officials on Saturday declared the swine flu outbreak in Mexico and the U.S. a "public health emergency" as new cases were reported north and south of the border and fears grew of a global epidemic.



When Pigs Fly

Meanwhile, at King's Edgehill



- Four students sick with flu symptoms
- One had been on school trip to Yucatan first week of April
- April 24: KES sends swabs to Health Canada lab in Winnipeg
- April 25: the results from Winnipeg come in...



April 26 at King's Edgehill



- Announce first documented cases of swine flu in Canada
- Media conference hosted jointly by school and the mayor
- King's Edgehill begins a long run in the international press



H1N1 comes to Canada



Headline on April 27, 2009:

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER



Flu fear spreads as six cases confirmed in Canada

Canadian sufferers showing milder symptoms, but health official says virus could mutate, and warns Ottawa to brace for severe cases.

Canada should brace for more severe, even fatal, cases of the new strain of swine flu from Mexico, the top public health official said yesterday after the first six patients in this country were confirmed.

The Canadians - four Nova Scotia high school students and two young men in British Columbia - suffered mild symptoms and most are already recovering.



When Pigs Fly

King's Edgehill April 27–May

2

- Average of 10 new cases per day and more than 60 students in isolation at peak of outbreak
- April 28: decision to administer Tamiflu
- April 29: Tamiflu clinic for students
- April 30: 4 more H1N1 cases
- May 1: 2 more confirmed
- May 2: 4 more confirmed
- After May 2: outbreak starts to recede



Meanwhile, in Asia

Media headlines are just getting started.
April 28, 2009:



THURSDAY TAIPEI TIMES NT\$15 22 PAGES

Students quarantined in Canada, red alert issued for Mexico

Three or four Taiwanese high school exchange students at King's-Edgehill private high school in Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada, were among a group of 17 people who were quarantined amid concern that they might have contracted the H1N1 swine flu virus. None the 17 people was seriously ill, he added. The ministry said 40 students from Taiwan were participating in an exchange program at the school.



When Pigs Fly

May 1, 2009:

International education responsible for Japan's first case?



ALL THE NEWS WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

The Japan Times

113TH YEAR NO. 39,434 ISSN 0289-1956 ©THE JAPAN TIMES, LTD., 2009 4TH EDITION ¥180 Consumption tax included (8:8-¥172)

17-yr-old Yokohama boy suspected of having new strain of influenza

The first suspected case in Japan of the rapidly spreading new strain of influenza A virus has been detected. The patient is a 17-year-old male high school student in Yokohama, who stayed in British Columbia, Canada, on a school excursion from April 10 to 25, according to his school.



When Pigs Fly

Meanwhile, at SMUS



- Background:
 - ISPY: international summer programs for youth
 - The great measles scare of 2007



May 9, 2009:



Let the cancellations begin:



TOKYO -- Junior and senior high schools are postponing or cancelling student trips to countries hit by the swine influenza outbreak, mainly because of health concerns among parents or guardians.

Currently, the education ministry asks schools to reconsider trips to Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak that has spread to more than 20 countries or regions. But planned visits by students to the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia are now being called off.



When Pigs Fly

Dear Ms. Wilson:



“There seems to be no end to the human swine flu situation these days, and to Taiwanese people is reminiscent of the 2003 SARS disaster. As a result, we have received inquiries and questions from many concerned parents.

“This is especially true for our group of short-term summer programs where almost all participants have decided to hold off the summer trip to Canada, and have withdrawn their deposits.

“With increasing numbers of confirmed cases and 389 cases as of today, we regret to inform you beforehand that this summer's participation could be at all-time low.”

-- Taiwan Education Consultant



July 13, 2009



And if global recession and swine flu weren't enough challenge for one year:

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER



Visa requirements imposed on Czechs, Mexicans

Canada is now imposing visa requirements on Mexican and Czech nationals -- the two top sources of refugee claims.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said the move was made because the majority of the claims are found to be unwarranted.



When Pigs Fly

H1N1 impact survey



- 3 Questions
- Who received it?
- Where did responses come from?
- What kind of institutions responded?
- Results



Who received the survey?



1. Sent out to members of Canadian Education Centre (CEC) Network
2. Distributed through NAFSA listservs



Survey respondents

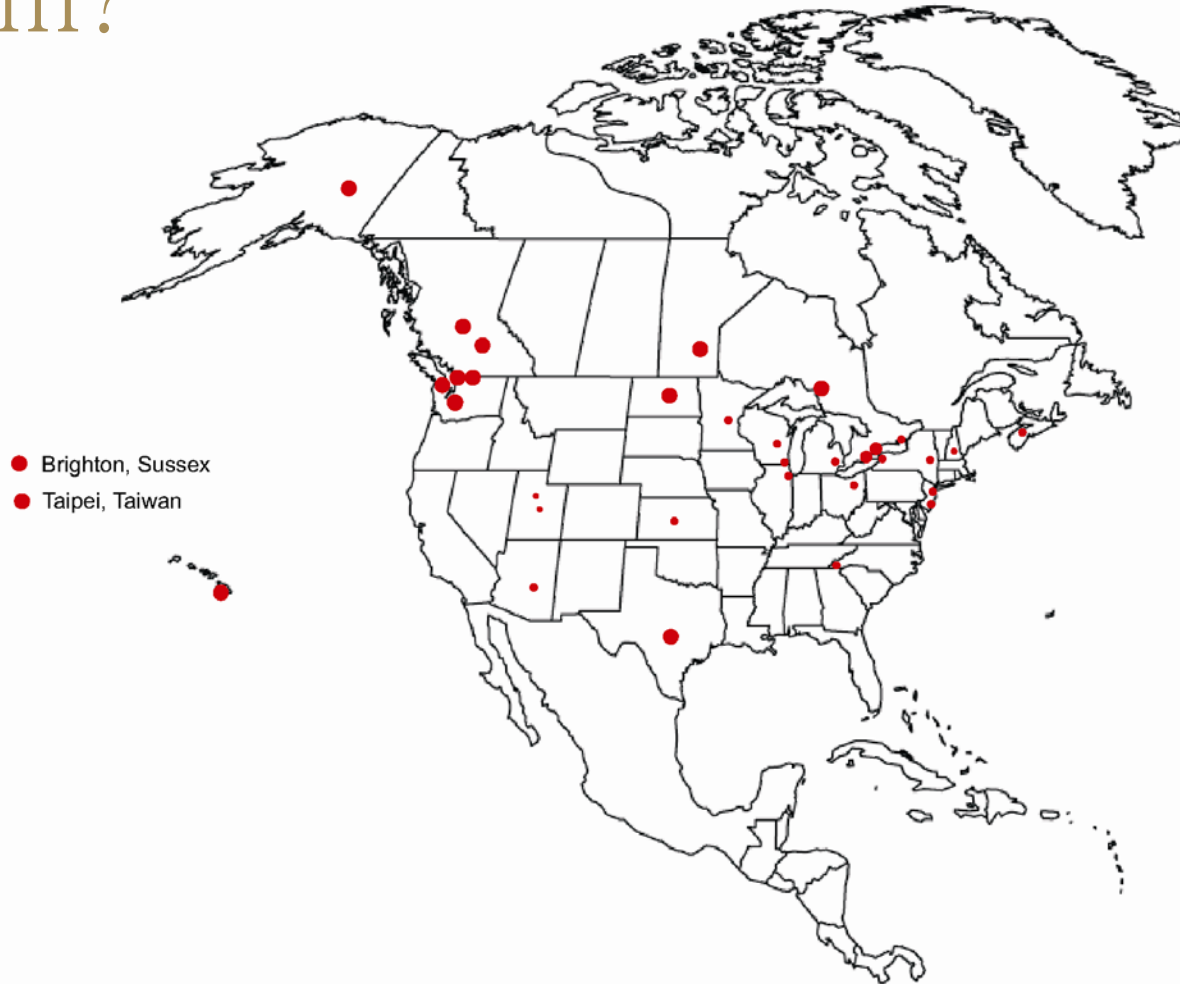


78 surveys completed:

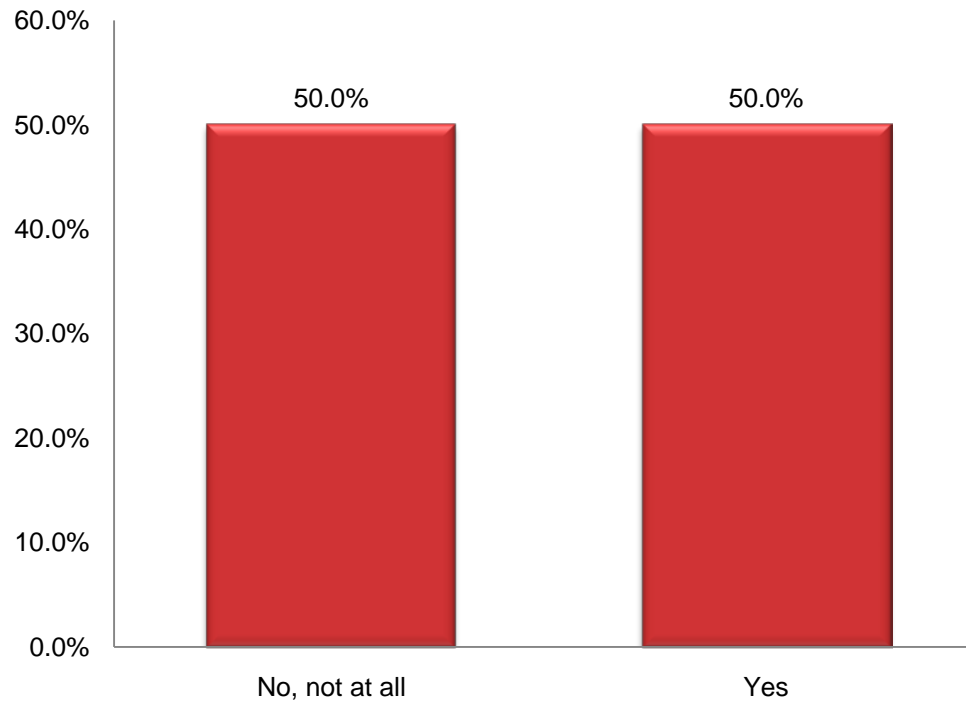
	College, University	K-12	Language Schools	Other
United States	20	1	2	Global Partners Int'l; CEC Taiwan
Canada	5	5	3	
Total	25	6	6*	



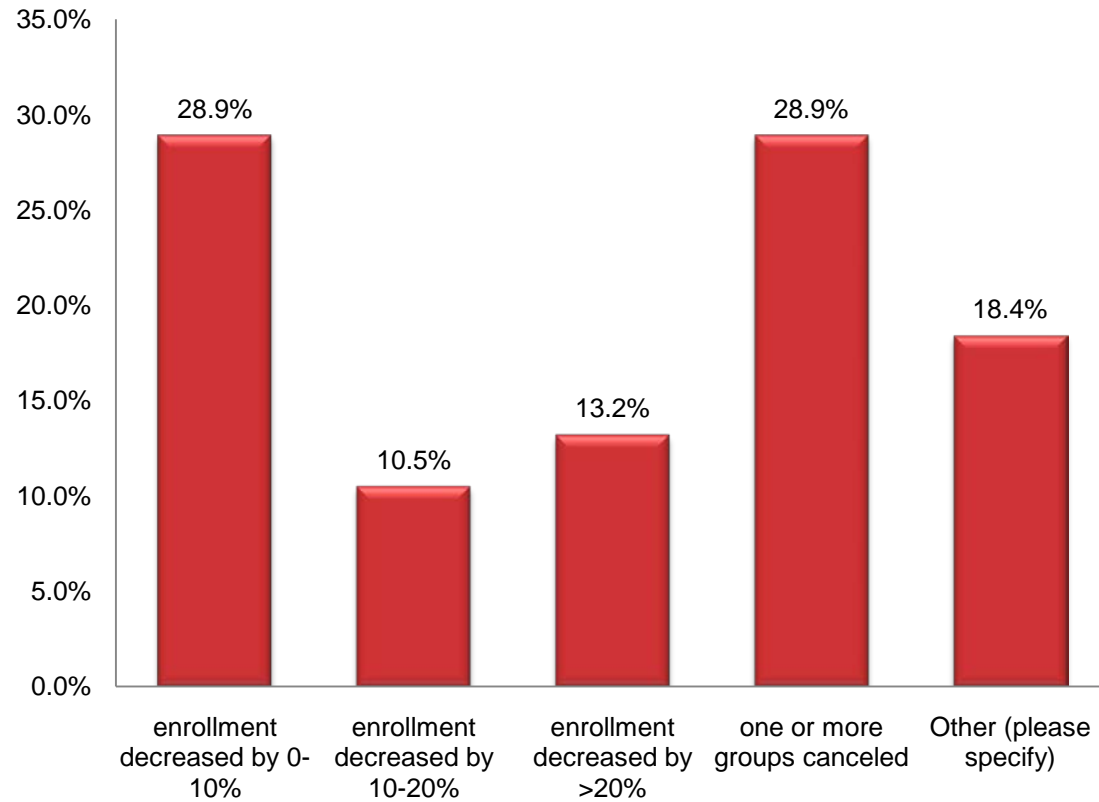
Where did responses come from?



Were your programs affected?



By how much?



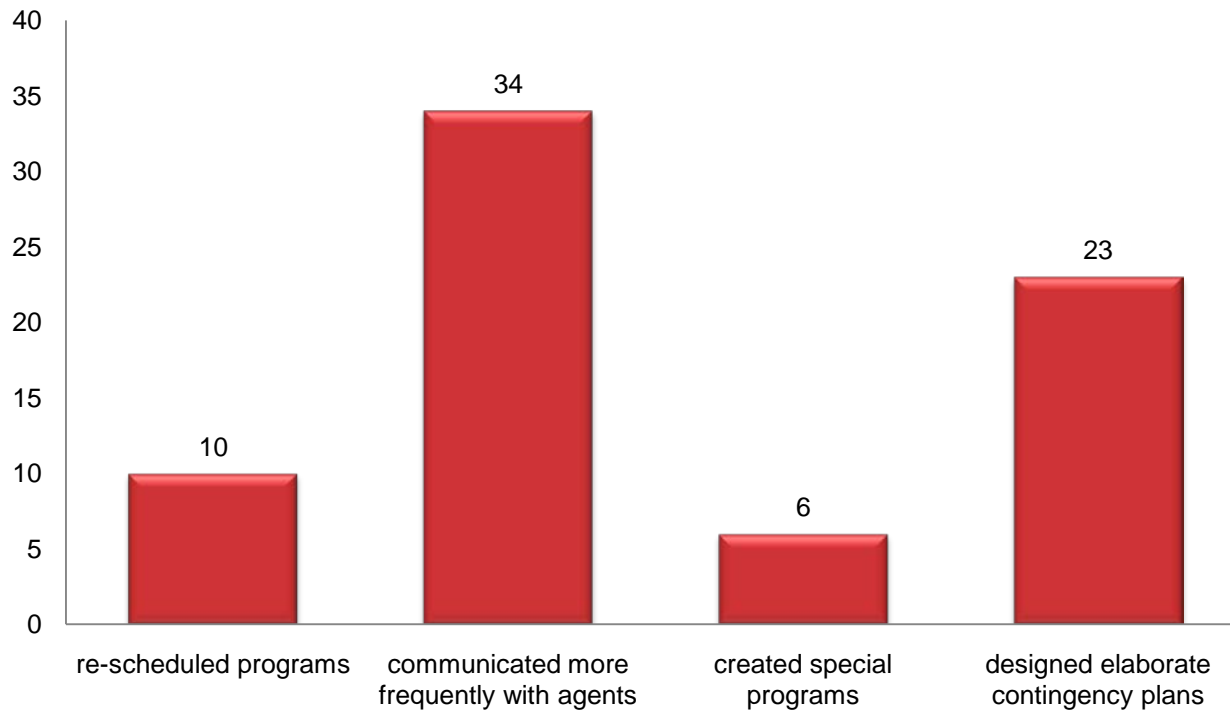
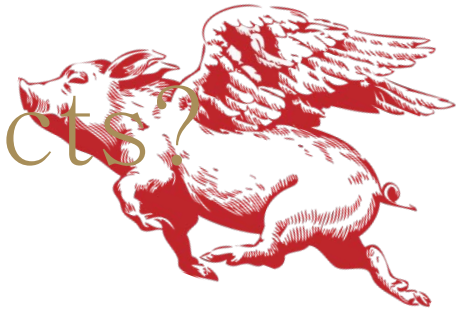
“Other” effects cited



- “The residence where we host the summer program had an infected student from another school.”
- “Our summer program saw a decrease and cancellation of participants.”
- “Our partner institution in China, who was hosting 12 of our students for 4 weeks, cancelled at the last minute stating they didn't want students from H1N1 infected area.”
- “Group that was supposed to come for first summer session had to change to second, causing logistical problems.”
- “Two short term programs were cancelled due to fears over H1N1.”



Strategies to mitigate effects?



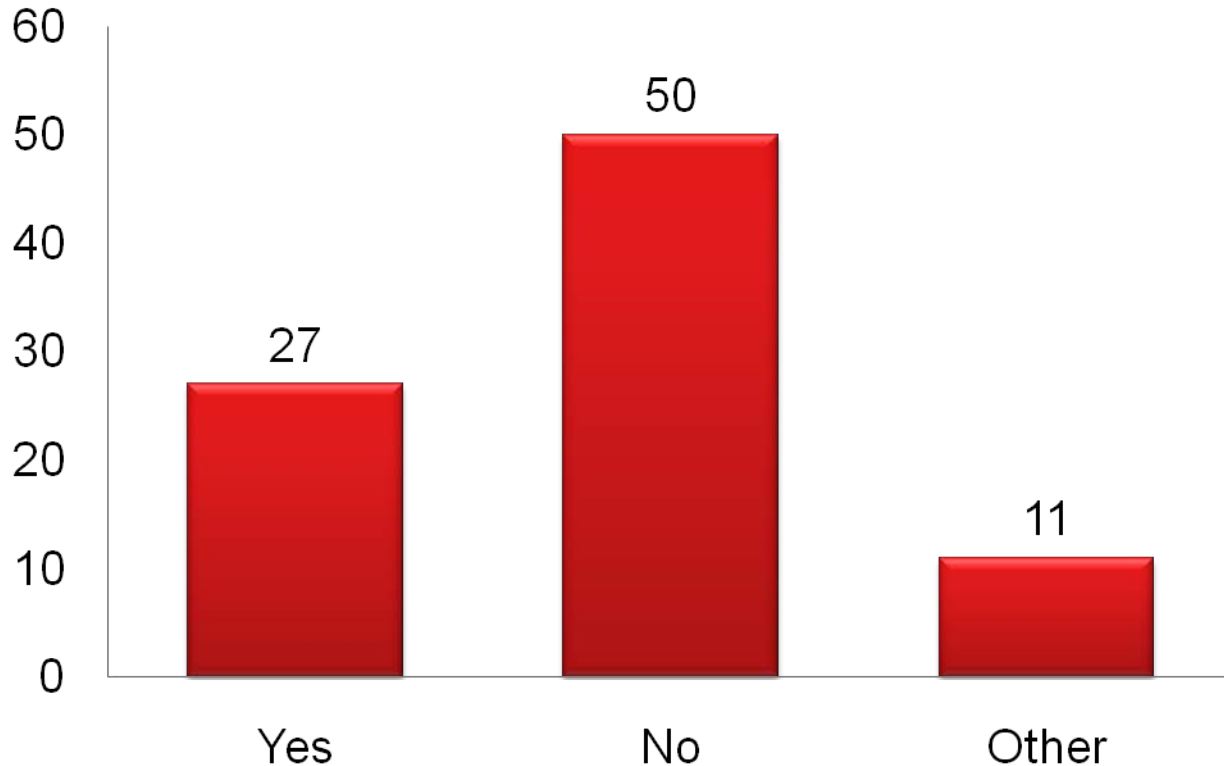
“Other” strategies cited



- “Students given option to change program; reduced number of classes offered; developed alternate programming for current students.”
- “Cancelled our trips abroad.”
- “Re-invigorated and updated our virtual school plan.”
- “Our sister school in Mexico moved the six-week summer program back three weeks.”
- “Communicated with students and school representatives about the state of H1N1 and our institution; kept our students informed and had the health center come to speak.”
- “We briefed students on how to identify 'flu-like' symptoms, and were especially vigilant with identifying and quarantining any student in the residence hall who displayed symptoms.”
- “Prepared Prevent the Flu kits for our teachers, which included posters, hand sanitizers, news releases, tissues.”



Did you work with government or education organizations?



“Other” partnerships cited



- Participated in CDC, local health dept and state health dept meetings, events, etc
- University Student Health Center & Local hospital
Local Health Department
- Links to information from the state of New Hampshire, CDC and WHO on website
- Pandemic Flu Committee



Remember King's Edgehill?



- Unique situation with first confirmed cases in Canada leading to intense national and international media interest.
- Public Health Department lent a team of three media experts for the initial week.
- Held daily press conferences and communicated daily with parents.
- Hosted an information session by Nova Scotia's chief public health doctor on campus.
- Used web broadcasts and the website to communicate with parents and other concerned parties from all over the world, which helped counter some of the false information.



What did we learn?



- Communication is critical (duh...)
- Location, location, location
- It's more problem than you want to handle alone
- Technology is your friend, embrace it



Keeping it in perspective



Per 100,000 deaths (Canada)

- Cancer: 170.3
- Heart disease: 121.5
- Stroke (cerebrovascular diseases): 32.5
- Accidents (unintentional injuries): 25.6
- Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 25.1
- Diabetes: 19.1
- Alzheimer's disease: 12.7
- Pneumonia: 11.7
- Septicemia: 4.1
- Influenza: 1.5
- Worldwide Swine flu deaths: 6,071

