

Truth, Conscience and Science

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“The Vaporizing Flu”

There is no cure for this emerging
disease

100 people get it 100 will die

After an incubation period of 5 days

The whole body melts, then vaporize
Those inhaled the vapor will meet the
same fate in 5 days

A plane carrying 51 persons landed at City X

Before leaving the plane, one
passenger vaporized without warning
The remaining 50 all inhaled the vapor

The 50 were taken in for isolation

Doctors consider it safe to let them
vaporize in air-isolation rooms

But pointed out that if they die for any
reason before the incubation period
ends, they will not vaporize at all

The “Vaporizing Flu Concern Group” doesn’t consider it safe enough to let them vaporize under isolation

They went to the hospital to plead, carrying with them the banner:
“Kill yourselves now to save the community!”

One day passed, nothing happened

The City Legislature under pressure, enacted overnight the 《Mercy Killing (infectious disease) Ordinance》

Two more days passed, no
mercy killing of any of the 50
happened

Concern group protest at the
Hospital again, carry a banner:
“Execution Now”

Night before the expiration of the 5-day incubation period

A mob of 500 people, carrying metal bars and sticks, broke security cordon, barged into the isolation rooms, clubbed to death everybody inside, including the 50, doctors and nurses

Nobody ever vaporized

City X was saved!

Better safe than sorry

But how safe is safe?

Is quarantining a whole hotel and everybody inside for 1 case of flu safe enough?

Mexican index case arrived
HK airport on 30.4.2009

Passed through airport health
screening like thousands of other
passengers

Mexican traveled to the city
using taxi

Like thousands other inbound
travelers everyday

Mexican checked into a hotel

Like thousands of travelers do
everyday

Mexican felt unwell after the flight

Like quite a few passengers who might feel the same after a flight, but unlike most others he went to seek treatment at a public hospital and got detected as A(H1N1) infected

As to most other who felt unwell after a flight

- Sleep it out and see what happen tomorrow
- Take simple medications from 7-11
 - Go see a private doctor

They will all be missed by the system and could be spreading the virus around already

But nothing seemed to have happened, until an obvious community outbreak occurs

Is our system safe enough
then?

If not, when will an obvious
community outbreak be detected?

AVANCE EN EL REPORTE DE CASOS CONFIRMADOS (POR FECHA DE INICIO DE ENFERMEDAD)

SALUD



¹ En la figura no se incluyen un total de 8 casos confirmados para los cuáles se desconoce la fecha de inicio de los síntomas.

Truth #1

We are not facing SARS

We are facing Influenza

Truth #2

We are not facing an unknown killer
virus like SARS

We are facing a virus from a family
we've known for half a century

Truth #3

- The A(H1N1) virus has been successfully cultured
- It has been successfully typed
- It's genes have been sequenced so that not only its unique identity has been established, but also it's ancestral links have been traced
- Accurate methods of diagnosis are available

Truth #4

The disease caused by the
A (H1N1) virus is predictable and
has been quite clearly
characterized

7142 cases recorded outside Mexico as at 21 May 2009

- 10 deaths (rate 10:7142 = 0.14%)
- Fever, chills, aches and tiredness
- Sore throat and cough
- Self-recovery
- Short duration of illness
- Not many required hospitalization

Mexican Mortality

- *Science* DOI: 10.1126/science.1176062
- Estimated case number from beginning to late April 2009 23,000 (range 6000-32000)
- Case fatality ratio 0.4% (range 0.3-1.5%)
- Virus appears less severe than 1918 'Spanish Flu' but comparable to 1957 'Asian Flu'
- 14 to 73 generations of human cases

The A (H1N1) virus is behaving
like the common flu virus we know

NOT

The SARS virus

Truth #5

Know safe treatment for A (H1N1) in the form of Relenza or Tamiflu is available

Unlike SARS when patients were poisoned with huge doses of steroid

Summarizing the truths

- The identity of A (H1N1) has been fully characterized
- Accurate diagnostic methods are available
- There are known safe treatment
- The virus is behaving like the ordinary influenza virus we know
- Mortality outside Mexico is $< 1\%$

Experts trying to justify draconian
measures claiming there's a lack of
understanding on how the virus
behaves

is not telling the truth
is a blatant disregard of scientific
evidence

Are we not facing a serious
threat?

Yes, we are facing a serious
threat, but
not that of the nature of SARS

The Threat

- Zero immunity of the world population against the A (H1N1) virus
- 30% or more of the world population could be infected within the next 6 to 9 months (6+ billion x 15% = 2 billion) (*WHO Fukuda*)
- 30% of the 7 million Hong Kong population will be 2 million
- 1% of 2 million cases are serious = 20000

SARS versus A (H1N1)

- 2003 Hong Kong recorded 1755 SARS cases
- 299 deaths
- 2009 to 2010 Hong Kong could record 20000 cases of serious A (H1N1) i.e. 12 X that of 2003 SARS
- $2 \text{ million} \times 0.14\% = 2800$

Influenza is a problem of scale
“millions of cases”

SARS is a problem of individual
mortality

Can we stop A (H1N1) by isolating patients?

- A person infected with SARS takes 10 days from the day of his infection to infect the next generation of victims
- There's plenty of time to track down the contacts, isolate them and prevent the next generation of cases
- A person infected with influenza takes 2 days from the day of his infection to infect the next generation of victims
- There's NO time to track down the contacts, isolate them and prevent the next generation of cases

Influenza cannot be stopped
at the border

Unlike SARS

Measures successful for containing SARS

Is not applicable for containing
influenza

What can be done to prevent the
2 million cases from occurring?

Will the flu shot help?

No

Any Pill to take?

1 Tamiflu pill per person per day = 7 million pill per day, our stockpile of 20 million pills is good enough for 3 days

Anti-viral



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Anti-viral



Are we doomed?

Far from it!

Barrier methods

Facemasks

Eye glasses

Protective screens

Cover your nose and mouth

**Spitting
Spreads Germs**

- If you have to clear your throat, use a tissue
- Drop the used tissue in a covered bin
- Wash your hands with liquid soap

Spitting in Public
Maximum Fine \$5,000
for First Conviction

April 2003
Refer to the Information Services Department
Public Health Services, Department of Health Services,
1000 Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1Y6

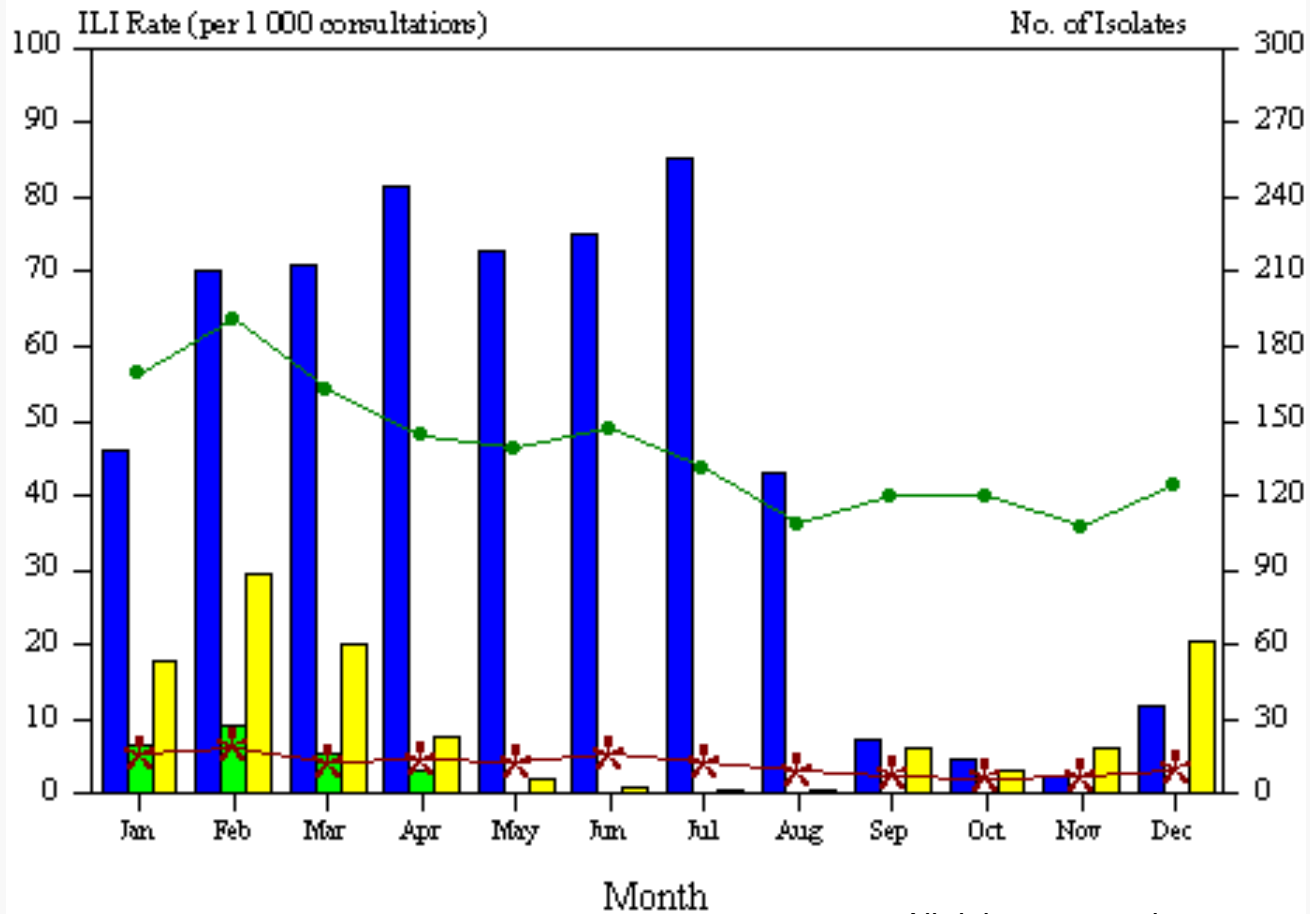
The Claw of devil



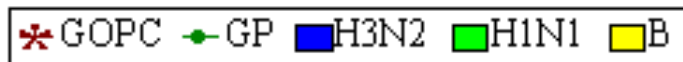
酒精洗手液



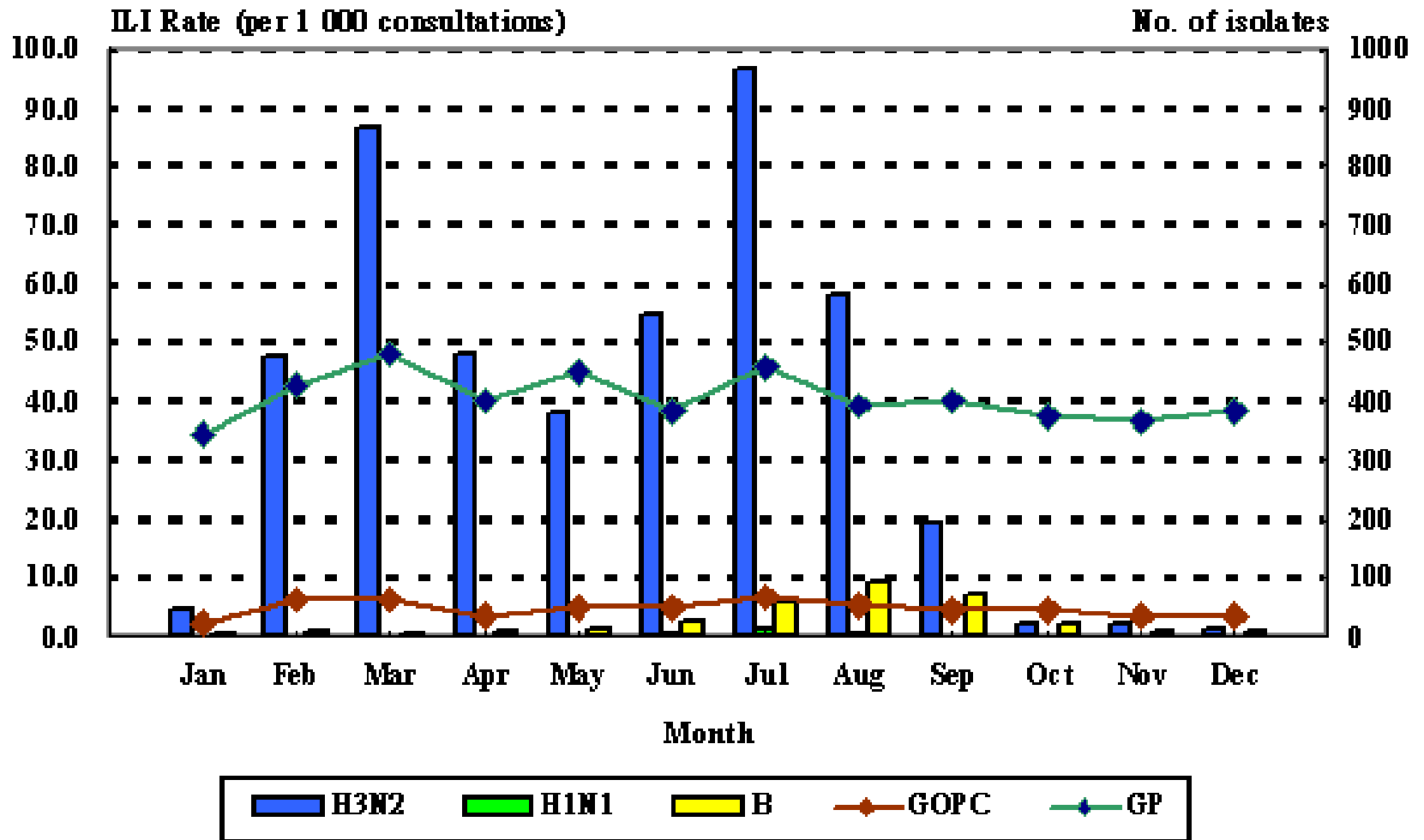
Flu 2002 Hong Kong



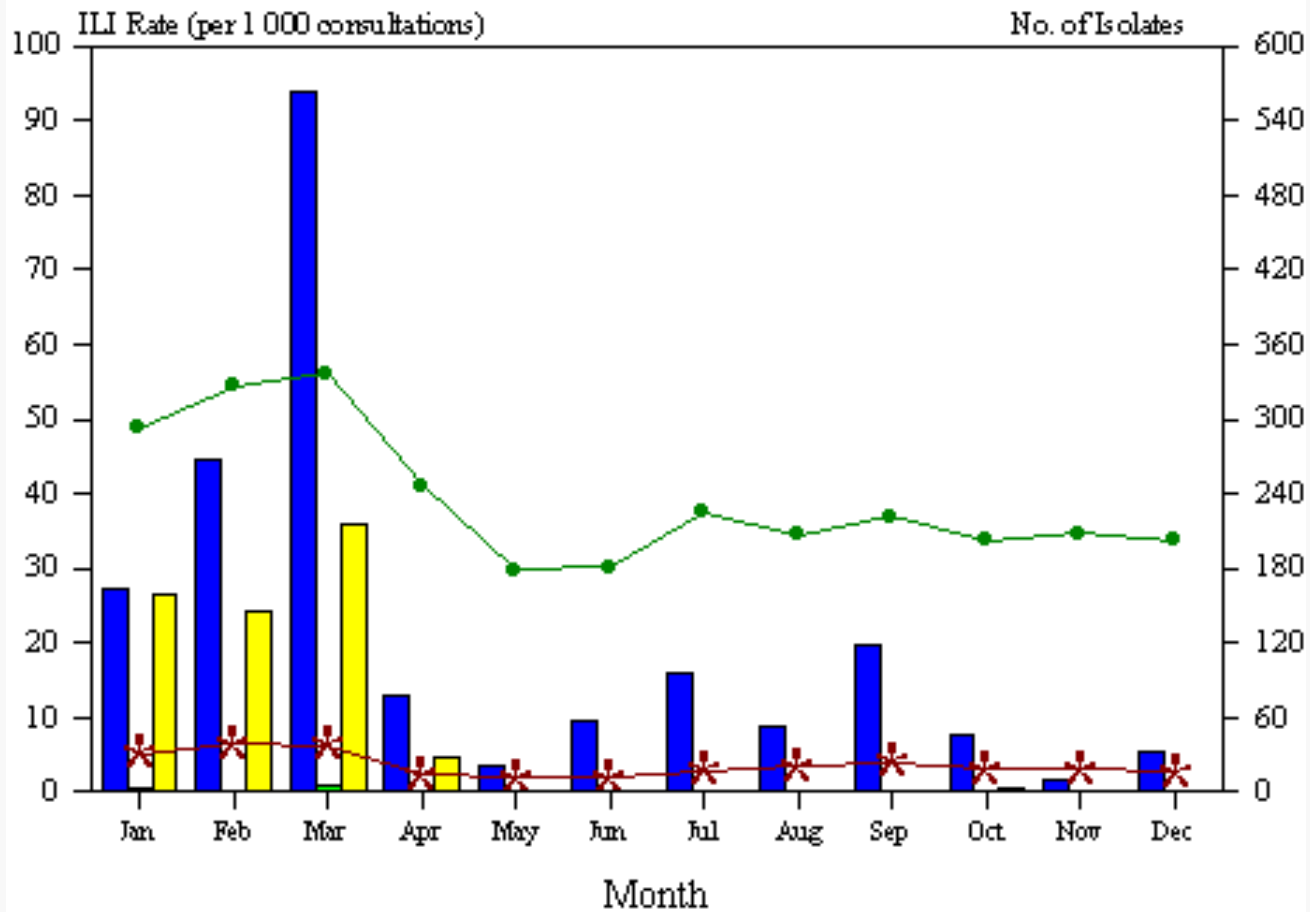
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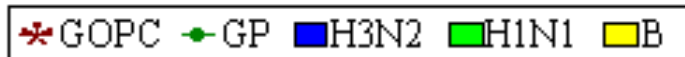
Flu 2004 Hong Kong



Flu 2003 Hong Kong



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Preventing ourselves from getting infected

If we are infected prevent passing
on the virus to others

CDC H1N1 Flu | Interim Guidance for H1N1 Flu: Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm

Links

- <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm>
- <http://www.who.int/feeds/entity/csr/disease/swineflu/en/rss.xml>
- http://www.chp.gov.hk/view_content.asp?lang=en&info_id=16615

This is the truth of Type A H1N1
influenza to the best of my
knowledge

Spoken with conscience and
utmost respect for science

Thank You!