Reviewer's report


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Reviewer: Michel Setbon

Reviewer’s report:

The next version of the article brings some responses to the remarks and questions asked in the previous review we made, as including more details on the seven surveys and the impact of time of the survey. Nevertheless an important point was not taken into account and I identified a confusion in the discussion. The first is related to the value attributed to the dependant variable “taking preventive measures” through taking one or more of the 12 measures listed. I insist to consider this choice as irrelevant because it is insufficient to define the “protective behavior”: a cumulative score including the number and the frequency of preventive measures adopted to face the risk of AI would be more accurate.

Second, an important confusion seems to be made between the risk of AI (transmission of AI to human from poultry and birds), the focus of the authors, and the risk of human-to-human pandemic. In the discussion authors quoted Lau and colleagues as a comparable work where “many of the determinants we identify in this study are in line with the studies of Lau and colleagues in Hong Kong”. But it was entirely a different purpose as we can read in the article (Lau and al. 2007, BMC, ID, 7, 18): “Respondents were asked how likely they would be to adopt the following preventive behaviors if a local human-to-human H5N1 outbreak (defined as ”if 2–3 new human-to-human transmission of H5N1 cases were to be reported in Hong Kong“) were to occur”. The object is not protective measures taken in the past, but Intentions to take in the future, if...the pandemic occurs ! So the authors can’t compare their results with Lau’s results.

I think that these two important points would be addressed and corrected before a possible publication of the article

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests