Reviewer's report

**Title:** Monitoring of risk perceptions and correlates of precautionary behaviour related to human avian influenza during 2006 - 2007 in the Netherlands: results of seven consecutive surveys.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 19 August 2009

**Reviewer:** Daniel Barnett

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

In the current version, there is an apparent error at the top of p. 13 regarding over-/under-representation of the survey with respect to the general population. The authors note: "Over all surveys, 26%, 39% and 35% of respondents had received lower, intermediate and higher education respectively." The authors then state: "This distribution is 27%, 44%, and 29% in the general population, which shows overrepresentation of participants with intermediate educational level and underrepresentation of those with high educational level."

However, based on the respective sequence of percentages listed of study population vs. general population, the study population actually shows underrepresentation of participants with intermediate educational level (39% in study population vs. 44% in general population), and overrepresentation of participants with high educational level (35% in study population vs. 29% in general population).

This discrepancy regarding the respective educational levels of study vs. general populations needs to be corrected.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

On p. 6: The beginning of the following sentence, "People perceive their comparative vulnerability..." should be changed to "In this optimistic bias context, people perceive their comparative vulnerability....".

On p. 17: "A number of Asian study...." should be changed to "A number of Asian studies...."

On p. 22: "In the current H1N1 pandemic this underlines the necessary to inform...." should be changed to "In the current H1N1 pandemic this underlines the necessity of informing...."

**Discretionary Revisions**

None

**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.