Reviewer's report

Title: Developing guidelines for school closure interventions to be used during a future influenza pandemic

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Reviewer: Antoine Flahault

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This is an important paper since there are few material published in the literature on this topic. They used a small community individual-centered model to simulate an outbreak of influenza, with various level of R0, and intervention measures such as school closure and antiviral treatments. It is well written, understandable.

I am wondering why they did not take into account in their simulation the interval generation time which is usually a key parameter in such simulations? Did they take into account population movements from and to the studied community? Or did they consider this population as an isolated one?

It would have been of interest to study impact of school closure in an age-structured model and to present result by age or age class, since this intervention may have impact on older people within population.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Yes, I have an indirect conflict of interest since someone in my family is working for pharmaceutical industry association in France.