Reviewer's report

Title: Foodborne norovirus outbreak: the role of an asymptomatic food handler

Version: 1 Date: 27 February 2010

Reviewer: Quan Shen

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General Comments:
The manuscript investigates the epidemiological characteristics of an outbreak of gastroenteritis due to norovirus which occurred in a residential summer camp on July 2005, where the implication of a food handler was demonstrated. Epidemiological investigation, Laboratory investigation of the available Stool samples was then carried out. Results suggested that an asymptomatic food handler may responsible for this outbreak.

Generally, I don’t think it adds significantly to the already known facts except that this study suggests that asymptomatic carriers can be infectious again. There are many mistakes in the text concerning English wording and grammar. The authors should search the help of a native speaker when writing a revised version of the text.

Specific Comments:
1. Are those norovirus positive Stool samples have a same nucleotide sequence? If not, please give the sequence homology of these norovirus isolates.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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