Author's response to reviews

Title: Seasonal influenza risk in hospital healthcare workers is determined by household rather than occupational exposures: results from a prospective cohort study in Berlin, Germany.

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for your comments on the revised submission. You have asked the authors to address the following points:

The authors have adequately replied to reviewers comments, except as regards the occupation of non-health care workers which is still insufficiently described (and I would extend this comment to occupation of HCWs). The authors should briefly describe occupations of participants (e.g. in table 1 or the text). Also table 3 needs editing.

Regarding the occupations, I have added the following sentence in page 10 of the results:

Of the 250 healthcare workers, 41 (16%) were doctors, 97 (39%) were trainee nurses and 112 (45%) were qualified nurses. Of the 486 non-healthcare workers, 178 (36%) were administrative or information technology staff, 107 (22%) scientific staff, 45 (9%) students, 6 (1%) teaching or lecturing staff, 25 (5%) in manual or technical roles, 21 (4%) in retail or service, 9 (2%) veterinary staff, and 7 (1%) in other occupations. In 88/486 (18%) the occupation was not stated or unclear.

I have re-edited table 3 including the tab alignments and also included it as a separate file.

I hope that these modifications are sufficient and that your are able to proceed with publication of the article. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Many thanks again for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chris J Williams (corresponding author)