Reviewer's report

Title: Clusters of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome in Liaoning Province, northeastern China

Version: 1 Date: 6 January 2011

Reviewer: Olaf Horstick

Reviewer's report:

In my view, this study should be published, after some revisions, the main reason for major revision being that the article at this stage describes purely the methodology and the results of the study, detecting clusters, but without describing the potential benefits. The public health implications need to be addressed, especially on the background to recommend a particular methodology – more or less sophisticated, probably with some practical difficulties to use these on a regular base – without referring directly to the potential benefits.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests