Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect Modification of Environmental Factors on Influenza-Associated Mortality: A Time-Series Study in Two Asian Cities

Version: 3 Date: 14 October 2011

Reviewer: Charlotte Warren-Gash

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have made appropriate changes to the paper, which improve its clarity. In particular the addition of the analysis using a longer time series of Hong Kong data from 1998-2006 is useful as are the time series graphs in figure 2. A couple of minor points:

1) Figure 2 appears to be falling off the page – please ensure that graphs and axes are fully visible in the final version

2) The legend for figure 3 states that ‘an asterisk is added above the bars if the interaction between smoking and influenza is shown statistically significant by the likelihood ratio test between main effects and interaction models.’

- Is this an error? This is the only reference I could find to smoking in the paper.

Otherwise there are no additional comments on the revised paper.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests