Author's response to reviews

Title: Timeliness of contact tracing among flight passengers for influenza A/H1N1 2009

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Version: 4 Date: 21 October 2011

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Bilthoven, October 21st 2011

Dear editors,

Hereby I kindly provide you with our feedback on the comments of the associate editor of the article “Timeliness of contact tracing among flight passengers for influenza A/H1N1 2009”.

Regarding the following sentence on page 6:

Oseltamivir postexposure prophylaxis for this pandemic strain is reported to be effective even when administered more than 48 hours after exposure in household settings [18], however, delays in administration are not specified. It is not excluded that also in our study, delayed administration of oseltamivir postexposure prophylaxis to close flight contacts may have prevented some people from becoming ill, although the change for infection in a household setting is lower than in airplanes.

Does this latter sentence mean that the likely reduction in disease risk with prophylaxis is greater in households than in aeroplane contacts, or the reverse?

The comment of the editor is correct, the change for infection in a household setting is higher than in airplanes. This is adjusted in the newest version. The textual changes have been incorporated in the text as well.

Kind regards, also on behalf of my coauthors,

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