Reviewer's report

Title: Viral etiologies of lower respiratory tract infections among Egyptian children under five years of age

Version: 3 Date: 19 October 2012

Reviewer: Adriana Kajon

Reviewer's report:

Essential revisions:

Although this is a significantly improved version of the paper, the use of idiomatic English is still poor in many sections of the manuscript. There are still some typos and grammatical errors in the new version. A thorough revision for correct use of language is required.

The following are examples of language issues still present in the revised version of the paper:

- Some sentences like the one in the third paragraph of page 3 have some wording repeated twice ("patients under five years of age")

- S. Pneumoniae should be italicized. The “e” is missing.

- On page 6 of the Methods section, the patients likely to be excluded are the ones previously enrolled for a DIFFERENT episode of illness, right?

- Many sentences are too long and statements are broken up by semicolons. A revision is recommended to break up those sentences into 2 separate ones. For example: in the second paragraph of page 9 the addition of a stop after “maintained” and starting a new sentence with “However,…” is recommended.

- The addition of the word “combined” at the beginning of the third paragraph on page 9 would add clarity.

- Instead of “had the highest prevalence” consider using the wording “was the most frequently detected virus”.

At the top of page 10, consider breaking the sentence by adding a stop after “symptoms” and the editing to read “Half of the clinical specimens examined…”

- In the first paragraph of the discussion on page 10, the text needs to be edited to read "Consistent with results obtained in other countries..." OR "Consistent with results from studies conducted in other countries..."

- The last sentence of the 1st paragraph on page 11 starting with "Using..." is poorly written and needs editing for clarity and correct grammar.

- At the top of page 12, the text needs editing to replace "at 18.5%" by: “detected
in 18.5% of the ILI cases" or similar. A stop is needed after LRTIs. and then "similar observations were reported by other studies [26]"

-in the second paragraph, second sentence, the text needs editing as it is redundant to say that virus isolation is a method that ISOLATES.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests