Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of Respiratory Viral Infections in Two Long-Term Refugee Camps in Kenya, 2007 - 2010

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2011

Reviewer: Paul Turner

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading this study which highlights the importance of viral respiratory pathogens in an African refugee population.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The internal control PCR was described as targeting the "ribonucleoprotein (RNP) gene". I believe the PCR is more accurately defined as the human ribonuclease (RNase) P gene PCR.

2. How was discordance between nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal sample PCR results dealt with? Were both samples tested in all cases?

3. Given the known persistence of some of the viruses in the nasopharynx, especially in younger infants, were criteria for patient re-presentations used and if so what where they?

4. 268 specimens were discarded due to failure to meet the criteria set out in the methods section, but what criteria were used to determine “poor sample quality” in the additional 115 excluded specimens?

5. Can the authors provide figures for the overall numbers of ILI and SARI cases presenting to the hospitals during the surveillance period (or at least the number of people who were approached but refused to participate)? This would permit an assessment of the representativeness of the results.

6. Table 2 legend states the rates are for 2008-2010, is this correct or should it read 2007-2010?


8. There is duplication of results in the figures/tables: the detailed results in Table 2 maybe makes Figure 2 redundant?

9. I found several typos...e.g. double comma in the legend for figure 2; inconsistent use of full stops in figure/table legends.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.