Author's response to reviews

Title: A hand hygiene intervention to decrease infections among children attending day care centers: design of a cluster randomized controlled trial

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Dear Editor,

We hereby submit our manuscript entitled ‘A hand hygiene intervention to decrease infections among children attending day care centers: design of a cluster randomized controlled trial’.

We think the manuscript is relevant to ‘BMC Infectious Diseases’ as it describes the study protocol of a randomized controlled trial for the evaluation of a unique multi-component hand hygiene intervention. To our knowledge, this will be the first trial to assess HH compliance of both caregivers and children, as well as the incidence of gastrointestinal and respiratory infections in children attending day care centers, as outcome measures. Other strengths of the trial are a large number of participating day care centers and children/parents, and a long follow-up period. Furthermore, this will be the first hand hygiene intervention in day care centers developed according to a stepwise behavioral approach targeting the key determinants that underlie caregivers’ hand hygiene behavior.

For the randomized controlled trial we obtained a grant from a major funding body, namely the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw). Ethical approval was waived by the Medical Ethics Committee of the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam (MEC-2011-256). Proof of both ethics and funding have been send by email.

We hope you will find the manuscript eligible for publication.

Yours sincerely,

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