Reviewer’s report

Title: The influenza A (H1N1) pandemic in Reunion Island: knowledge, perceived risk and precautionary behaviour

Version: 5 Date: 24 July 2012

Reviewer: Marc Kiviniemi

Reviewer’s report:

All comments are minor essential revisions.

This version of the manuscript is much improved, both in terms of content and of readability. I appreciate the authors' attention to the suggestions made in my previous review.

I will admit to being disappointed that the authors did not choose to address the suggestion to separately examine predictors of each precautionary behavior. I certainly appreciate that doing so involves additional analytic work, but there is potentially valuable information to be mined in looking at separate predictors. My assessment is that the paper as written is a contribution to the literature, but there could be a greater contribution with these additional analyses. I will leave it to the editors’ discretion whether such analyses should be included in the article.

I do have some specific comments about the new version of the paper:

At the end of the background section, the study is described as a prospective, in population study. This is not accurate -- the study is a cross-sectional study. It is correctly described in the abstract. The description in the background needs to be corrected.

The report of male/female differences in perceived severity (2nd paragraph under the perceived severity subheading) as confusing. Specifically, the sentence "Among women, perceived severity was significantly higher than among men" seems to refer to the rating of severity, but the numbers presented are percentages.

The only severity measure for which percentages would be appropriate is the yes/no question of whether H1N1 or seasonal flu is more severe. The paragraph should be edited to clarify which results are being reported.

The paper needs to be thoroughly proofread. There were several spelling, wording, and typographic errors in the manuscript.

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
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.