Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes, practices and information needs towards novel influenza A (H7N9) among employees of food production and operation in Guangzhou, Southern China.

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2013

Reviewer: Richard Fielding

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

The literature review and discussions are highly selective, omitting several studies done on poultry-related buying, handwashing and other influenza preventive behaviours that have been published in the past 8 years.

For example, the work of Liao and colleagues has reported on several aspects that this study addresses, as well as presenting a comprehensive model for population reactions to influenzas. These omissions give the impression that the work is more original than is in fact the case. There is substantial work on changes to poultry buying in southern China and elsewhere, during influenza epidemics, and on influenza vaccination uptake determinants that is not included.

There is no multivariate analysis to adjust for factors that might interact; for example there is likely to be an age x gender interaction in terms of use of internet; older retailers may not use the internet as much as younger males.

The work is rather superficial and lacks an in depth analysis that the large data set would lend itself to. As it stands it adds very little to our understanding of population responses to influenzas.

Minor revisions

There is need to attend to the English grammar which in places needs correcting.

References


doi:10.1093/pubmed/fdp043

Liao Q, et al. The influence of social-cognitive factors on personal hygiene practices to protect against influenzas: Using modelling to compare avian
A/H5N1 and 2009 pandemic A/H1N1 influenzas in Hong Kong. International Journal of Behavioural Medicine, 2011, 18, 2, 93-104.


**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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:**

I have no competing interests, though I do publish in the same domain.