Dear Editors,

We have carefully checked the whole manuscript and made necessary corrections. All the corrections and clarifications are listed in detail in our point-by-point reply to referees’ comments. According to the referees’ suggestions, the following changes have been made in our submitted revision.

1) The whole paper has been checked for grammatical errors;
2) The details of protocol for immunization of the maternal generation were added in the "Methods" section;
3) The inactivated vaccine used in our study was inactivated split influenza virus A/PR/8/34 (PR8, H1N1) vaccine manufactured by Shanghai Institute of Biological Products, China. This has also been indicated in the "Methods" section;
4) Some repetitions have been deleted in the "Results" section;
5) A figure (namely Figure 1) on survival rate curve has been supplemented in the "Results" section;
6) Several sentences have been added in the "Discussion" section to explain the possible mechanisms of inhibitory influence of maternal antibodies on infant immune responses.

Sincerely yours,
Ze Chen M.D., Ph.D., Professor