Reviewer’s report

Title: Sentinel surveillance system for early outbreak detection in Madagascar

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2009

Reviewer: Carl D'Arcy

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This is a straightforward but interesting description of the development of a low cost, innovative, sentinel surveillance system for infectious diseases in developing country (Madagascar). Elements of the model described could be used in other jurisdictions to develop similar sentinel surveillance system. So I feel the paper is worth publishing on those grounds.

It is well written, clear and easy to follow. The only minor typos that I noticed were: an extra space before a full-stop in the 2nd line of the paragraph in the section "Overview of the data ..."; and the 2nd line in the section "Discussion" should read "...has been weak..." rather than "... has been weakened..."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.