Reviewer’s report

Title: Water and sewage systems, socio-demographics, and duration of residence associated with endemic intestinal infectious diseases: A cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 8 December 2010

Reviewer: Clarence Tam

Reviewer’s report:

I feel the authors have responded adequately to my initial comments. Just a few additional points:

1. Given that the authors have only used the first episode of illness, analyzing individual days seems quite inefficient, although the authors have explained their reason for doing so, and other forms of analysis would probably require some intensive data manipulation. But as far as I know, there is little published about how best to analyze such large databases, which are becoming increasingly popular in health research. Perhaps the authors could be encouraged to write a separate paper describing some of the analytical issues, including model choice, computational intensity, and some recommendations for practice.

2. O157 should not be in italics (only genus and species names).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests