Reviewer's report

Title: Male commuters in North and South England: risk factors for the presence of faecal bacteria on hands

Version: 2 Date: 12 July 2010

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Reviewer's report: Review of Manuscript “Male commuters in North and South England: risk factors for the presence of faecal bacteria on hands”

This research is interesting and important. The authors pose their research question well, clearly state the limitations of the study, and adhere to the relevant standards and ethical principles of research among human subjects. Significant strengths of the manuscript include its foundation upon earlier published work, and data which address a significant gap in the body of literature on the assessment of hand hygiene in the community setting. The methods are appropriate and well described. Furthermore, the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

The authors have sufficiently responded to the reviewers’ comments. Only a few minor compulsory revisions are needed to prepare the manuscript for publication.

Discretionary Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
RESULTS
1.
“We explored the association between different factors and the hygiene score (as below vs. Above the median hygiene score) using logistic regression.”
- The letter “a” in the word “Above” should be lowercase.

DISCUSSION
2.
“It is possible differences in normal skin flora rather than hygiene etc may resulted in longer survival rates of faecal contaminants and thus higher contamination rates in northern cities.”
- Correct grammar.

3.
“Whether the unexpected more frequent isolation of E.coli in Newcastle compared to other cities was due to chance or represent a true difference between the study sites could be the subject of future studies.
- The word “represent” should be plural for proper subject verb agreement.

TABLES 1-5
4.
- Capitalization and font are not consistent within and between the tables. The word “Note” is repeated twice in the footer of Table 5. Please edit.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None.

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 that I have no competing interests.