Reviewer's report

Title: A guidance for contact tracing of plane passengers with Viral Haemorrhagic Fever - Results of an expert consultation

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Reviewer: Aura Timen

Reviewer's report:

This is a nicely written article which summarizes the scarce evidence on the risk of air transportation for transmission of VHF. The findings can be of relevance for public health authorities when decisions on timeliness and scale of contact tracing should be made.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Background

I suggest providing the figures to support the statement that travel from and to Africa has increased substantially. Although the numbers of travellers have increased, I doubt that this contributes to the risk of acquiring VHF. One does not simply get infected with one of the viruses causing VHF during a touristic stay in an endemic country. It is the increased risk of significant exposure (medics and paramedics working in hospitals, adventurous destinations with possible exposure to bats, etc) that contributed to importation of cases with VHF in Europe and the US.

Move the information about the RAGIDA project to the Methods section

2. Methods

This article would benefit from a more systematic description of the methodology. I suggest to present shortly the RAGIDA project followed a step-by-step description of the literature searches, selection of the evidence, composition of the panel and consensus procedure.

Results

In the section over "Guidance" I would like to read something about the dilemmas in reaching consensus. For instance: what is a symptomatic case? The authors refer to symptomatic cases as an important condition to consider contact tracing, to which I completely agree. But, in the very early stages symptoms can be very aspecific. How to deal with this problem in practice?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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 been a member of the consensus panel