Reviewer's report

Title: Barriers to pandemic influenza vaccination and uptake of seasonal influenza vaccine in the post-pandemic season in Germany

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Reviewer: Pier Luigi Lopalco

Reviewer's report:

The paper is of very high interest for the experts in the field. The methodology is scientifically sound and the reading is clear.

Few specific comments:

1. Methods: it is not clear where the sample size of about 2,500 subject for the follow-up survey comes from. What is the statistical power in comparison with the original sample?

2. Methods: the survey does not cover the pediatric population, even though the pandemic vaccine was recommended among children. This would deserve a short comment either in the background or in the methods section

3. Discussion: the statement "The follow-up survey revealed a decrease in seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in the first post-pandemic season across all target groups" looks to be in contrast with what is stated at page 10, first para "A significant decrease in seasonal influenza vaccination coverage between seasons 2009/10 and 2010/11 was observed [...] but not for persons #60 years of age" and seems in contrast also with data reported in Table 2.

4. Discussion. The research question "if pandemic influenza campaign might have influenced seasonal influenza vaccine uptake" could be more extensively discussed, eventually providing some elements to be included into the pandemic preparedness plans after the lessons learnt during 2009.

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.