Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of influenza, healthcare seeking behaviour and hygiene measures during the A(H1N1)2009 pandemic in France: a population based study

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2012

Reviewer: Allison Aiello

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript provides important information regarding pandemic preparedness and the use of non-pharmaceutical measures for preventing influenza transmission. Although the design is a cross-sectional phone survey, it has been conducted in a rigorous manner.

There is a methodological issue regarding the case definition that has not been addressed in this paper. The issue of fever - how it was measured and whether it was appropriate as a criteria for influenza like illness should be discussed. Indeed, there are some studies that suggest that cough rather than fever should be a required symptom of influenza. Fever may not appear in all cases of influenza and varies depending on age. Therefore, the authors should consider adding supporting references that support the criteria that they used for influenza like illness.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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