Reviewer’s report

Title: The epidemiology and surveillance response to pandemic influenza A (H1N1) among local health departments in the San Francisco Bay Area

Version: 1 Date: 9 December 2012

Reviewer: Paul Etkind

Reviewer’s report:

No compulsory revisions noted.
No minor essential revisions noted.
Two discretionary revisions are suggested.

Background: First Line - Public health is used twice in the same sentence. I suggest the first sentence begin with "Surveillance and epidemiologic investigations are critical public health functions..."

Background Paragraph 4: I suggest emphasizing the decline in epi capacity and the increase in demands for epi. "Despite the decline in epidemiologic capacity, ph surveillance and epi investigations continue to be important AND EXPANDING functions for responding...."

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 have no competing interests with any aspect of this work. I am active in understanding the work of local epidemiology, and I am very happy to see this work and hope it will be published.