Reviewer's report

Title: Design of Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention Strategies for Pandemic Influenza Outbreaks

Version: 2 Date: 10 July 2014

Reviewer: Allison Aiello

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Overall, this is a very interesting paper that addresses an important question regarding NPI application for mitigating a pandemic. There are some question regarding the parameterization of the model. There are many assumptions, partly because data do not exist, in terms of implementation of the NPIs. The methods would have been more convincing if they included earlier NPI study data to further support the parameters that were assumed regarding NPIs and how the process may work in a real pandemic scenario.

I am not an expert in ABM. Therefore, it is not possible to comment extensively on the conclusions from the model. However, I have some moderate concerns about the assumptions used to create the intervention/model and therefore there may be ways to improve the overall model. In the limitations section, the authors should further describe the assumptions underlying the process and ways that they created the NPI's/response and whether this realistically mirrors a real world pandemic scenario.

Minor Essential Revisions

The tables and figures are hard to follow with the extensive abbreviations that are used. I suggest making them clearer and spelling out abbreviations.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest with this paper.