Reviewer's report

Title: Public perceptions of non-pharmaceutical interventions for reducing transmission of respiratory infection: systematic review and synthesis of qualitative studies

Version: 1 Date: 28 April 2014

Reviewer: Jason Nagata

Reviewer's report:

This is a systematic review and synthesis of qualitative studies on public perceptions of non-pharmaceutical interventions for reducing the transmission of respiratory infections. Overall, this is an important topic and a novel qualitative review methodology that adheres to the systematic review standards. The paper is well written and the tables and figures are clear.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Methods: Quality Appraisal and Data Extraction: Please describe in more detail how you used the CASP to exclude the one paper for methodological issues. What were the specific CASP criteria that led to exclusion? If there is a scoring system, it may be useful to include an appendix (or table) of how each of the studies were appraised by CASP and what the threshold for exclusion was.

Minor Essential Revisions
Background: Second paragraph: If the point of this review is non-pharmaceutical interventions, why so much discussion of vaccination in the background?

Background: Second-to-last paragraph: It is good that you justify the importance of qualitative research here, but I would also highlight/justify the utility/importance of qualitative systematic reviews specifically, and how they are useful in practice. You might be able to shorten your discussion of qualitative research in general.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests