Reviewer's report

Title: How effective is good domestic kitchen hygiene at reducing diarrhoeal disease in developed countries?: A systematic Review and reanalysis of the UK IID study

Version: 4 Date: 20 January 2008

Reviewer: Allison Aiello

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript has been greatly strengthened by the revisions. The authors have adequately addressed each of the major concerns. I have a few minor clarifications and comments that can be considered discretionary:

Conclusions p.15: Since there are so few studies available, the authors should consider adding â##neither supports nor refutesâ## as in the following sentence: â##In conclusion this review neither supports nor refutes the hypothesis that poor general environmental hygiene in the domestic kitchen is a risk factor for Salmonella, Campylobacter or self-reported diarrhoea.â## This minor suggested change is in congruence with other sentences found in conclusion paragraph (e.g. â##However, all the data with one exception were based on observational studies and consequently no unequivocal conclusions can be drawn at this stage.â##)

Another minor suggestion: The authors state the following â##There is some evidence that poor kitchen hygiene may be a risk factor for Enterohemorrhagic E. coliâ## I would suggest removing the word some since this statement is based on only one study.

Finally, I would like to address the following statement made by the authors: â##If the referee does not consider that the presence or absence of disinfectant in a cleaning product has no relevance to hygiene then we most strongly disagree with her.â## This was never suggested by my comments. Prior to the revisions, the authorâ##s failed to acknowledge that the study by Larson et al. was neither designed nor statistically powered to detect the impact of â##kitchen hygieneâ## as a specific intervention for reducing infectious illnesses. Indeed, the study by Larson et al. utilized numerous home hygiene modalities, including laundry detergent. With the revisions, the authors have now adequately addressed this important contextual distinction.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests