Reviewer's report

Title: Should cities hosting mass gatherings invest in public health surveillance and planning? Reflections from a decade of mass gatherings in Sydney, Australia

Version: 2 Date: 8 August 2009

Reviewer: Daniel Barnett

Reviewer's report:

In their revised manuscript, the authors have satisfactorily addressed peer review comments from the previous submission. In this current version, the authors have also included a timely descriptive update on linkages between current pandemic influenza response activities in New South Wales and jurisdictional "legacy" impacts of past mass gathering preparedness and response efforts.

Major Compulsory Revisions

None

Minor Essential Revisions

p. 5 (first full paragraph): "level risk...." should be changed to "level of risk...."

p. 7 (second full paragraph): "Thus, is important...." should be changed to "Thus, it is important...."

p. 9 (third paragraph): "Strong partnerships with organising Agencies is critical...." should be changed to "Strong partnerships with organising Agencies are critical...."

p. 10 (third paragraph): The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US occurred in multiple jurisdictions, in addition to New York City. Therefore, the authors need to reword this sentence to reflect this fact. A suggested rewording of this sentence would be: "The Sydney 2007 APEC event occurred in a world with heightened security concerns, post September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States."

p. 11 (fourth paragraph): A word is missing from the first sentence of the fourth paragraph, that renders this sentence confusing. The authors need to revise this sentence to address the following current unclear phrasing: "....within 24 hours and the has utilized....".

p. 12 (end of first sentence at the top of page, that begins at the bottom of p. 11): The authors need to revise the currently awkward phrasing "....could offer a large return on investment to the city, state, or nation can be expected....", so this sentence reads clearly.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.