Reviewer's report

Title: Public perceptions of quarantine: Findings of a community-based telephone survey in Greater Toronto

Version: 1 Date: 7 April 2009

Reviewer: Lisa Koonin

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Review of:
Public perceptions of quarantine: Findings of a community-based telephone survey in Greater Toronto, Tracy et al.
All are Minor essential revisions:

The questions posed by the authors are addressed by the study design. The methods are appropriate, however the authors need to include a discussion of the variance in response by those who were actually quarantined during SARS (Quarantine = yes). Although the numbers are too small for meaningful analyses, a discussion of this groups’ responses versus non-quarantined respondents may be helpful. The data are sound, but the methods for participant selection should be described in more detail. How is this survey part of a larger effort? What is the response rate? The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition. The discussion and conclusions are represented by the data and are balanced. the limitations of the work are clearly stated. On the bottom of page 10, continuing to top of page 11, the sentence should be edited to read” Finally, a relatively small proportion of our survey respondents were directly affected by quarantine during SARS, which precluded (not concluded) any analysis of differences…” This work builds on previous surveys of the use conducted by other investigators. The title and abstract accurately convey the study findings. The writing style is acceptable. I think this paper would be a contribution to the literature if the above edits are made.

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'