Reviewer's report

Title: Quantifying the impact of community quarantine on SARS transmission in Ontario: estimation of secondary case count difference and number needed to quarantine.

Version: 2 Date: 9 October 2009

Reviewer: Tommi Asikainen

Reviewer's report:

A lot of improvement(s) since the first version.

Minor essential revisions.

One part is still left from first review. The term reproductive number in the article is misused. As the methods in the papers are not really trying to estimate this but rather number of secondary cases, the authors should be more careful with the terminology. Reproductive number in this case would be a highest positive eigenvalue from a mixing matrix to use mathematical terms. As it also depends on the length of an infectious time period the approach in the paper is actually not covering the reproductive number at all. But the analysis are right themselves, if they would only concentrate to compare the number of secondary cases, but please take the parts with synologies to reproduction number away. If this is done the article is very excellent from a statistical point of view as well.

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