Reviewer's report

Title: Predicting the Start Week of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Outbreaks using Real Time Weather Variables

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Reviewer: François FREYMUTH

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript "Predicting the start week of respiratory syncytial virus outbreaks using real times weather variables" is an interesting study trying to find a reliable prediction of these outbreaks which could be very helpful to pediatricians. The work has been well performed and the results are presented correctly. But there are some major points that should be clarified before accepting this paper for a publication.

- The authors claimed that "RSV has a characteristic biennial outbreak pattern with alternating low peak and high peak season". This pattern is not usual for many groups, and since a long time (Kim HW Am J Epidemiol 1973;98;216-25)

- The patients enrolled in the study were selected according to either a viral diagnosis of RSV infection or after a clinical diagnosis of bronchiolitis. It is not relevant as other viruses can cause bronchiolitis : rhinovirus, parainfluenza virus especially..

- The authors pointed out that weather data have the potential to be used as effective predictive models of the onset of RSV outbreaks. But they did not say that other viral outbreaks, particularly, flu outbreaks, can interfere with RSV outbreaks, independently of weather data....

Level of interest: An article of importance 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’