Reviewer's report

Title: STOPFLU: Is it Possible to Reduce the Number of Days Off in Office Work by Improved Hand-Hygiene?

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2010

Reviewer: Gordon Doig

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting undertaking. Congratulations. Could you please add the following details:

1. Please provide details regarding the actual process used to randomize and achieve balance. Were matched-clusters block randomised? Minimized? etc. Please reveal how the sequence was generated.

2. Please provide references to the appropriate cluster RCT methodological literature to support the selection of each statistical test identified as to be used for analysis of primary and secondary outcomes. After a thorough read of the literature, with a special focus on the text book by Donner and Klar (Donner A, Klar N. Design and Analysis of Cluster Randomization Trials in Health Research. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2000.) you may find a simple analytic approach that provides more power than a t-test comparing pooled event rates within clusters.

3. Please provide an explicit list of all variables that will be assessed for baseline balance. For example, your ‘predicted risk of infection’ model might be decomposed into constituent parts (number of children etc) with each assessed for balance. Please provide explicit thresholds for determining a variable to be in imbalance and report what will be done when a variable is in imbalance.