Reviewer's report

Title: Hand washing with soap and water together with behavioural recommendations prevents infections in common work environment: an open cluster-randomized trial

Version: 1 Date: 13 September 2011

Reviewer: Benjamin Cowling

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I read this article on hand washing in an office environment with interest.

I was confused that the intervention seemed to increase sick leave, whereas there was a reduction in infections? Authors speculate that this may be because participants in the intervention arm were more likely to stay at home when sick. But even so, the intervention increase the risk of this primary outcome and so I wonder whether the title, abstract and discussion should be given a bit more balance. For example the abstract results section should report both primary outcomes, and the abstract discussion might mention the caveat that sick leave was increase in one intervention arm.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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