Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding the importance of key risk factors in predicting chronic bronchitic symptoms using a machine learning approach

Version: 1 Date: 17 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

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REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? Yes

Reviewer comments: Overall this manuscript has been well written as a sound contribution. The authors had conducted extensive experiments to understand how different key factors could impact the development of chronic bronchitic symptoms. From the study we can see the promising approach of using machine learning models to predict bronchitic symptoms among school-aged children.

One thing to note is that, annual self-reported questionnaires were used for assessment in this study. In the future, a timely method is expected to be employed to collect assessment data promptly.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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