Reviewer’s report

Title: Implications of screening and childcare exclusion policies for children with Shiga-Toxin producing Escherichia coli infections: Lessons learned from an outbreak in a daycare centre, Norway, 2012

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: Markku Kuusi

Reviewer’s report:

This is a clearly written article, and the research question is well defined. The methods in the investigation are appropriate and data in the investigation are sound. The article is well balanced, and the discussion and conclusions are based on the results of the investigation and previous literature. The limitations of the study are clearly stated. The title and abstract do accurately convey what was found in the investigation.

Major compulsory revisions
None.

Minor essential revisions
1. It is not clearly stated whether the control measures applied to culture-confirmed cases should also be applied to cases which were positive for eae and stx only. Since it is not rare that only the genes are detected from faecal samples, but the bacterial culture remains negative, this topic would be worth a short discussion.

2. Another question that could be discussed in the paper is whether control measures like exclusion from day care should be applied for all STEC strains, or are there serogroups (HUS associated) for which control measures should be applied and other serogroups for which they should not. To my understanding, in Denmark this type of classification has been made.

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.