Reviewer's report

Title: Using internet search queries for infectious disease surveillance: screening diseases for suitability

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Reviewer: Gerardo Chowell

Reviewer's report:

Authors analyzed correlations at national and state levels of internet search data and infectious disease surveillance data. Their results are interesting, but are not surprising as a number of studies have already put forward the idea that internet query data have potential to improve epidemiological surveillance. I have some suggestions:

1. I would have liked to see the potential for their simple correlation models to be validated with a subset of their data or additional surveillance data for recent years. At this point, authors only report correlations, which is interesting, but as I said, it is not necessarily novel.

2. Issues with the use of google flu trends have been recently discussed (see e.g. Lazler et al. Science 2014). This needs to be discussed further and perhaps elaborate in a way forward.

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