Reviewer’s report

Title: Spatio-temporal analysis of the relationship between meteorological factors and hand-foot-mouth disease in Beijing, China

Version: 1 Date: 08 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Pamela Palasanthiran

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the revisions and for your considerations of the feedback. The supplementary data including the table comparing studies is a good addition. Note: in my version of the download, in the supplementary table comparing the studies - the first and last lines of the data under "Meteorological factors studied" - it is difficult at times to work out which study was being referenced (as there is no clear separation between the studies. If it is a formatting issue, the expectation is that this will be better formatted in print version)

If I could respectfully suggest some minor rewording of some of your paragraphs for clarity and ease of reading? All in the DISCUSSION section. Thank you

1) Discussion section, paragraph 4: Suggest revise sentence to

"On the other hand, children spend more time with indoor activities in confined spaces during windy periods, which would increase the chances of EV transmission, a possible indirect explanation supporting the association of increased transmission with windy conditions."

Note: this is a relatively plausible explanation for the indirect effect of wind. although one could ask why the same association with rainy days does not hold. ie. on rainy days kids stay indoor as well but in your study - there is no association with rain. This is just a comment. Not expecting any response.

2) Paragraph 5, toward the end of the para: Suggest revise to:

Compared with the study conducted by Dong et al., we found that sunshine hours was also positively associated with HFMD incidence.
3) Paragraph 5, last sentence: Suggest:

The threshold effect of precipitation on HFMD incidence might be the reason for the discordant conclusions.

4) Paragraph 6: First long sentence: Suggest amend to

Demographic and socio-economic characteristics which include child population density, Gross Domestic Product per capita, number of health agencies, proportion of children in nursery, and proportion of children in primary school might be confounders affecting the incidence of HFMD.

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

Yes

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

Unable to assess

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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