Editor Comments

Thank you for your revised manuscript. Reviewer #2 has some minor comments that you may want to address.

Response

Thank you very much for the time and energy you and the reviewers have spent to review our manuscript. We applied the only comment from the second reviewer, Dr. Suparna Das. We hope that the new version satisfies your standards.

Reviewer 1: Zahid Butt

The authors have addressed most of my concerns and comments. I have no further comments.

Response

Thank you very much.

Reviewer 2: Suparna Das

Thank you for making the recommended changes. Move moran's I before SatScan. The write up saying, you did a spatial autocorrelation test using global Moran's I saying the outcome variable
was autocorrelated. Then the SatScan to find the local spatial clusters to identify areas of high risk to inform prevention intervention.

Response

Thank you for the comment. The respective text in section 2.3 has been modified to have Moran’s I (global and bivariate-global) before SaTScan. The text in the new version thus reads, “This spatial tendency is known as spatial autocorrelation and was globally investigated by using global Moran’s Index and bivariate global Moran’s Index that identified whether the data were spatially autocorrelated or not. Then, spatial scan statistics (SaTScan) was used to extract the local spatial clusters and mark the areas of high risk to inform prevention intervention.”

Changes

Section 2.3, lines 131 – 134