Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiological analysis of the Kaohsiung city strategy for dengue fever quarantine and epidemic prevention

Version: 0 Date: 12 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Lin Wang

Reviewer’s report:

The relationship between the imported and indigenous Dengue cases remains unclear. In this manuscript, the authors performed an epidemiological study to test the correlation between the imported and indigenous Dengue cases in Kaohsiung City in Taiwan, using syndromic surveillance data collected by the local health authorities. The question raised in this study is reasonable, and the statistical method used is acceptable. I have several comments and suggestions, as follows:

1. In the section "Database and Case definitions", could you supply more details on the collection of cases. For example, how indigenous cases were collected?
2. What are the sensitivity and specificity of the Dengue NS1 Rapid Test? Is it reliable for detecting Dengue information? As we know, arboviruses such as Dengue, Zika have a high-level of cross-reactivity. So is the rapid test good enough to conclude on Dengue infection?
3. In line 226, the reduction in Dengue cases following a major outbreak may also resort from the cross-protection between heterologous serotypes of Dengue.
4. In line 230, "in the nation" may be changed to "in Taiwan".
5. In the section "Conclusions" (p-15), it is not convincing to claim that imported cases are the reason of local Dengue spread in Kaohsiung. Correlation does not mean causation. Imported cases can be a risk factor but not a reason of local outbreak. For example, the study [1] explores the role of windborne long-distance vector migration.
6. With the case-based surveillance data, the authors may wish to conduct some mathematical modelling studies to sort out the influence of imported cases on local Dengue spread in Kaohsiung. Some useful studies [2], [3] are recommended for their reference.

References:

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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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