Author’s response to reviews

Title: Spatial-temporal detection of risk factors for bacillary dysentery in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, China

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Author’s response to reviews:

September 4, 2017

Dear Editors of BMC Public Health,

Thank you very much for your time and reviewer’s comments. We have thoroughly revised the manuscript according to the comments in your decision letter on August 29, 2017.

We now resubmit our fully revised paper entitled “Spatial-temporal detection of risk factors for bacillary dysentery in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, China” that we would like to be considered for publication in BMC Public Health. The author responses’ to reviews are followed in this letter.

Thank you very much for your review. We look forward to hearing from you in due course.
With best regards

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Authors’ Responses to Reviewers

Carolina Perez-Heydrich, PhD: The manuscript is much improved, and authors did a decent job of responding to reviewers' comments. I only have a few minor comments that author's may consider addressing at their own discretion.

*Authors should cite some document that highlights the survey procedures from which data from the 2012 Statistical Yearbook were derived.

R: These documents have been cited, please see line 95 in the revised manuscript.

*Lines 152-154 are still written in an unclear fashion.

R: The sentence has been rewritten, please see lines 151-153 in the revised manuscript.
*Lines 193-195 still don't adequately define how the size of the target spatio-temporal field was determined or how σ was estimated.

R: This has been clarified, please see lines 188-190 in the revised manuscript.

*The discussion should include mention of the major limitation facing this approach (in my opinion), which is its inability to capture partial correlations (and control for potential confounding factors).

R: The limitation has been added in the discussion section, please see lines 377-379 in the revised manuscript.