Reviewer’s report

Title: Adequacy of public health communications on H7N9 and MERS in Singapore: insights from a community based cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Eric Lau

Reviewer's report:

The authors provided useful information on the subgroups who may have uninformed or misinformed of two major emerging diseases. This will help improving public health communication for future epidemics in the region. However, the results can be better interpreted by providing more background information of the scientific evidence and situation of the epidemics around the time of the survey.

1. Line 49. The case-fatality rate of H7N9 should be higher than 30%. However, the earlier preliminary estimates could be lower in the first few months of the epidemic. Please update the CFR if you like to state it as a fact or clarify that was the scientific evidence available around the time of the survey.

2. Since the survey was carried out in a relatively short time after the emergence of MERS and H7N9, a description of the epidemic situation and knowledge available (such as transmission mode) around the time of survey will be helpful to interpret the results. This will also help to achieve the objective of the study determining uninformed and misinformed subgroups.

3. Line 105. Was there any difference between preferred and actual information source?

4. Line 125. 'reducing risk of infection'. Line 130 'four assessment sections'. It seems that the results are missing?

5. Line 129-130. The scaling seems to have effectively applied different weights to assessment sections. Please provide the rationale briefly.

6. Results section can be shortened as most of the numbers were presented in the Tables already.

7. Table 3. Question 6, it seems to me the evidence is still very limited especially at the time of the survey.
8. Line 271. There was no MERS case in Singapore, which is different from the situation of SARS. I would suggest replacing the word 'contradicts' by 'differs from'

9. Please change 'multivariate' logistic regression to 'multivariable'

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.

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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