Author’s response to reviews

Title: Respiratory Syncytial Virus tracking using Internet Search Engine Data

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. In the section ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ please clarify the reason that ethics exemption was provided by the Human Subjects Review Board at the University of Arizona.

RESPONSE: We clarified this statement, which now reads: “This study was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at the University of Arizona with a waiver of consent as this study used anonymous aggregated data.”

2. In the section ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ please clarify what the Microsoft Institutional Review Board specifically approved in this study.

RESPONSE: We clarified this statement, which now reads: “This study was considered exempt by the Microsoft Institutional Review Board.”

3. Please include a statement in the ‘Authors’ contributions’ section clearly indicating that all authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

RESPONSE: This statement was added as follows: “All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.”
4. Please add the section ‘List of abbreviations’ to the manuscripts (can be placed after the References). If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use, and a list of abbreviations can be provided.

RESPONSE: The list of abbreviations was added after the References, as requested.

5. Please clarify the source of the graphical image of the map used in Figure 4, next to its figure legend. If this has derived from another published source, please provide a reference to it, and state whether copyright permissions were required or received for its re-use. Otherwise, if this graphic has had no copyright permissions received and had not been made by one of the authors, this graphic will need to be removed.

RESPONSE: This figure was generated using Microsoft Excel, using the maps embedded within it. Thus, since one of the authors works for Microsoft, and additionally since this would seem to be a fair use application, we assume that no copyright permission is required. We added this information to the figure legend.