



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_38252
Title of the Manuscript:	Analysis of bacterial meningitis surveillance data, 2011-2015, East Mamprusi District, Ghana.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	Abstract Result: suspected and confirmed cases are summed, which makes confusing figures. Please make clear on them. Last sentence of results, <i>N.meningitidis</i>, <i>S. pneumoiae</i> and Nm W135 are confused to classify etiologic agent such as Nm W 135 is one of serotype of Nm. Please re-write. Page 2 - Line 26: there is an observed impact of a 2012 vaccination campaign~ →Please explain or show what is observed impact on it. - Line 27: decline of meningitis~ →Please consider that it is better to explain declining trends and then add how much declined. - Line 48: categorisation ~ →I would recommend that this category needs to be in a narrative way. Page 3 - Line 61~: whole this paragraph to explain WHO position paper on this vaccine, however this is for explaining what was recommended by WHO. Please re-write it. - Line 68: CSM →Please write full name of this abbreviation if it is used firstly in this manuscript. Page 4 - Line 103: meningitis epidemic prone district~ →Is there any previous history of epidemic in the districts? If it had been affected, please add in introduction part. Page 5 - Line 113: IDSR→ please write full name if this word is not previously used. - Line 128: epidemic thresholds→ please explain it with figures. - Line 131: prevalence~→ this is not reported in this manuscript, please define clearly if you would like to calculate it. Page 11 - Figure 4: what is "C2"? Page 12 - Figure 5: it would be better to show clearly in x-axis, otherwise legend numbers are not shown properly. As their thresholds of "alert" and "action", please explain this information in introduction with relevant references. Page 15-16 discussions I think this study is important to report outbreak of meningitis on morbidity and mortality. So it would be good to explain any reasons for declining trends or patterns of decreasing and increased case fatality rates.	The figures for suspected and confirmed cases have been re-written. The last sentence of results has been corrected. Page 2 Line 26: - I have provided an explanation in the last line of the results section of results section of abstract. Line 27: - Decline of meningitis has been explained. Line 48: categorization - It has been re-written in the narrative. Page 3 - Line 61: The paragraph has been re-written. - Line 68: CSM has been written in full Page 4. - Line 103: previous history of epidemics in the districts has now been added in the introduction par Page 5: - Line 113: IDSR has been written in full - Line128: The Thresholds have now been explained with figures. - Line 131: Has been re-written Page 11: Figure 4: C2= Mean + 3* standard deviations of 7 past surveillance points prior to a 2-day lag.C2 is a common method used in the United States of America to analyze surveillance data. The C2 method has now been further explained in the methods section. Page 12: - Legend numbers have been shown properly and X-axis shown clearly. The alert and action thresholds has been explained in the introduction with the relevant references provided. Page 15-16: Reasons for declining trends or patterns of decreasing and



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		increased case fatality rates have been explained in the discussion as suggested
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	This manuscript is for describe epidemiology of meningitis outbreak in some districts of Ghana for 5 years. It is recommended writing person, place and time in order throughout the manuscript. It would be good to describe number of case annually reported before this study period or incidence rates of meningitis in this districts or region. In method section, it is essentially required to explain how to get denominator for incidence, laboratory procedures with relevant references where appropriate. When it comes to address any meningitis cases, please make consistency; a number of suspected, laboratory tested, confirmed by laboratory test.. etc. In this case, it is suggested explaining study procedures to diagnose meningitis. In addition, please make sure of the case definition for suspected cases with clinical sign and symptoms or confirmed cases with laboratory confirmation. Due to unclear in defining suspected and confirmed, number of cases is not clear either.	All comments have been considered and effected. Some are consistent with the other reviewer's comments which have been addressed appropriately.