Author’s response to reviews

Title: The influence of climatic factors on the development of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome and leptospirosis during the peak season in Korea: an ecologic study

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Author’s response to reviews:

We are thankful to the editor and reviewers for their thorough review. We have revised our present research paper in the light of their suggestions and comments. We have addressed all issues indicated in the review report, and believe that the revised version can meet the journal publication requirements. Number-wise answers to their specific comments/suggestions/queries are as follows.

Editor Comments

#Comment: There are some language errors remaining in your manuscript. Please check the text carefully to ensure these are addressed.

Response: # we have thoroughly checked the spell and grammar in the manuscript and corrected in some places.

#Comment: Please ensure that the additional file referred to in the 'Availability of data and materials' section is present as this was missing from the current version.
Response: #we assume that you want to know the information for sources and collection of data. In this study, we used three types of data: surveillance data of HFRS and leptospirosis, climate data and population related information which were received from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Republic of Korea, Korea Meteorological Agency and Statistics Korea, respectively. In current manuscript, information related to availability of data from different sources is found under ‘data collection’ section (page 6, line: 22, 23 and page 7, line: 1-19).

Additionally, we’ve also supplied all complete datasets that were used during the period of analysis.

Response on the reviewer's comments

Reviewer 2

# Comment: I am satisfied that my previous reviewer comments have been largely addressed. I am not sure why the p values are listed to 3 significant figures even when above P>0.10?

Response: We followed the previous BMC Infectious Diseases publications while mentioning the P values. Both 3 significant and 2 significant figures have been used in published research articles when P>0.10 (Torre et al., 2007; Page: 4 and Frimpong et al., 2017; Page: 4). Therefore, there is no sharp demarcation in the use of 2/3 significant figures while mentioning the P>0.10.

# Comment: The language could be more precise particularly when describing statistical associations - e.g. what does "moderately significant" or "not remarkably significant" mean? E.g. there were also no significant differences found in gender-wise incidences of both diseases (P=0.096). Among the provinces, the incidences of HFRS (P=0.242) and leptospirosis (P=0.265) were not moderately significant. The distributions of cases by different occupations were also not remarkably significant in HFRS (P=0.229) as well as leptospirosis (P=0.243).
Response: We have corrected the language precisely (Results section, line: 12-14). Since the associations in HFRS and leptospirosis cases for age, gender, province and occupational variables are not statistically significant. We assume that it would be appropriate to mention simply insignificant association in the text without mentioning the P value.

# Additional correction: The redundancies in the text are removed and references are arranged systematically in the text and as well as in reference section.

References

Frimpong C, Makasa M , Sitali L, Michelo C. Seroprevalence and determinants of toxoplasmosis in pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at the university teaching hospital, Lusaka, Zambia. 2017. BMC Infectious Diseases. 17(10): 1-8.

Torre G, Miele L, Chiaradia G, Mannocci M, Reali M, Gasbarrini G, Vito E, Grieco A, Ricciardi W. Socio-demographic determinants of coinfections by HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses in central Italian prisoners. 2007. BMC Infectious Diseases. 7: (100) 1-9.