

Review of: "When a Cluster Is a Cluster"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear author of this manuscript. I see several interesting aspects in your text on clusters. Below, I tried to summarize the main points I came across when reviewing your text.

Positive remarks:

- The application of this study seems promising with respect to the spreading of infectious diseases.

Improvement points:

- Your abstract seems to be missing a research question, results, and concluding sentence. In case this manuscript is a review (the introduction mentions 'brief essay'), clearly state so in the abstract to inform your reader.
- Many sentences from this manuscript are based on existing publications (without rewriting the content in the authors' own words); this also includes citing the exact same resources as the existing publications did in their study. My suggestion would be to rewrite those sentences to capture the essence of these publications, to highlight the knowledge of the author from these publications. Furthermore, retrieving some more recent publications to back up the claims made in this manuscript is advised; most of the publications are very outdated, and there must be some more recent developments in this area. I can highly recommend the following paper:
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sste.2022.100563>.
- Some of the sentences in this manuscript are not represented in the right context, I believe, e.g., 'This is especially true when the choice of spatial boundaries for examining health risks has important political and economic repercussions' is based on DOI: 10.1017/S0950268805005741. This later paper uses the exact same sentence, however, without a reference to back up this claim or without actually having studied these claims in the publications (which is on clustering data of E. coli in Alberta, Canada).