Review of: "A Multi-factor Model of COVID-19 Epidemic in California"

Matthew Merski[1]

1 University of Warsaw

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author has improved the overall manuscript notably since the previous version. However, the fundamental issue is still that they are fitting the data to a model rather than making predictions. While they have now started to look at multiple time points, the issue is that earlier time point results/fits are not being used to extrapolate to future times. This is a fundamental issue in meterology (weather prediction) and a decent review of the mathematical principles that define predictions ad their accuracy can be found in the literature (e.g. Gneiting T and Raftery AE (2007) Strictly proper scoring rules, prediction,and estimation. Journal of the American Statistical Association 102, 359–378.). For COVID 19 cases, there are a number of current workers in the field that the author should examine to be aware of the state of the art (e.g. https://covid-19.tacc.utexas.edu/dashboards/us/ among others). These are both good examples of the kind of treatments required for predictions and the manuscript should reflect these ideas if the author wants to make claims about predictions or future estimates.