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Reply to Burgner, et al

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Dear Editor:

We thank Dr Burgner [1] for his interest in our study [2]. Dr Burgner pointed out the potential for oversimplification of our survival model by summarizing prematurity and low birth weight, which may have resulted in effect modification being overlooked. This is an interesting idea, and we agree that perhaps a stratified approach could provide more meaningful estimates of such effect measure modification. However, stratifying on these dichotomous variables is not possible with our data due to the small sample size. We think this would be an important approach for future studies and look forward to publications evaluating possible effect modification by gestational age or birth weight.

References

1. Burgner DP, Miller JE, Strunk T, Nassar N. Growth parameters, effect measure modification and the association between vaccination and early childhood hospitalization with non-targeted infections. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2017.
2. Bardenheier BH, McNeil MM, Wodi AP, McNicholl J, DeStefano F. Risk of non-targeted infectious disease hospitalizations among U.S. children following inactivated and live vaccines, 2005–2014. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2017.

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