



Relating human contact patterns to influenza infection

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A central tenet of epidemiology is that close contact and co-location between individuals presents opportunities for infection of respiratory pathogens, and that epidemics are driven by host interactions. Despite the importance of these assumptions for public health interventions, relatively little evidence exists to support them. In this talk I will present recent findings from a number of epidemiological studies conducted in China and the USA which explore the relationship between social mixing and the risk of acquiring influenza.