

**S4 Fig. Evolution of error in estimates of the probability of a major outbreak as the outbreak persists.** A. Error in estimates of the probability of a major outbreak as a function of the age of the outbreak ( $x$  deaths). Inset: Probability of an individual outbreak persisting until at least  $x$  deaths. B. Average number of  $E$  and  $I$  after  $x$  deaths in simulated outbreaks in which at least  $x$  deaths occur. Each boxplot in A and bar in B is obtained from 100,000 simulations of the stochastic SEIR model in which at least  $x$  deaths occur. Each bar in the inset to A is obtained from 100,000 simulations of the stochastic SEIR model.

