

Reviewer Report

Title: Future-proofing and maximizing the utility of metadata: The PHA4GE SARS-CoV-2 contextual data specification package

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Reviewer Comments to Author:

SARS-CoV-2 sequencing, analysis, and open sharing have played a crucial role in a number of developments during the pandemic. The authors have identified a need for a fit-for-purpose, open-source SARS-CoV-2 contextual data specification. They incorporate existing community standards with an emphasis on SARS-CoV-2 public health needs and ensuring privacy while maximizing information content and interoperability across datasets and databases to better enable analyses to fight COVID-19. The research is very important both for theoretical studies and clinical therapy of COVID-19. To facilitate timely access of research community to this package, I strongly recommend its publication as it is.

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