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**Fred Brauer\*** ([brauer@math.ubc.ca](mailto:brauer@math.ubc.ca)), Department of Mathematics, University of British Columbia, 1984 Mathematics Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2, Canada. *Initial exponential growth rates in compartmental models.*

We give a complete proof of the relation between the basic reproduction number and the initial exponential growth rate of an epidemic given by Diekmann & Heesterbeek (2000) and Wallinga & Lipsitch (2007). As examples we describe a general SEIR model and a quarantine/isolation model. (Received September 21, 2011)