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Nebraska Ranks Last in Preparedness Survey

(KTNC) -- Nebraska is tied for last in a new report that rates the states' ability to prevent, control and treat outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Rich Hamburg, the deputy director of the Trust for America's Health, says the study finds many gaps in efforts to keep ahead of so-called superbugs, salmonella, the seasonal flu and more. Nebraska only scored two of a possible ten points.

The report found Nebraska failed in multiple categories, including not covering H-I-V screenings under Medicaid and not meeting vaccination goals for whooping cough or H-P-V. Nebraska also doesn't mandate that health care facilities report infections.

Hamburg says Nebraska is vaccinating more than half its population for the flu, but that is one of only two categories where the state excelled.

With a score of two out of ten, Nebraska is tied for the nation's worst score on the report with Georgia and New Jersey. A majority of the states only scored four, five or six points out of ten. The highest-ranked state was New Hampshire with eight out of ten. See the full report at:

www.healthyamericans.org.

Nebraska Radio Network