

OMAHA (AP) — A new study says Nebraska ranks in the bottom half of all 50 states in terms of its preparedness for health disasters.

The report was released by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Nebraska was one of 20 states that met six or fewer of the criteria on which the scores are based.

Richard Hamburg, deputy director of the trust, says the emergence of swine flu has highlighted existing gaps in public health emergency preparedness.

Nebraska was criticized because the state doesn't meet the Medical Reserve Corps criteria for medical volunteers.

It also doesn't require childcare centers to have a multihazard evacuation plan, and Nebraska hasn't bought more than half its allocation of antiviral medication.