

Understanding Infection Control Needs in Nebraska Schools: Insights from School Health Staff

Chris Cashatt BSN, RN, CIC¹; Mounica Soma, MHA, MSPM, CDIPC¹; Dr. Muhammad Salman Ashraf, MBBS^{1,2,3}; L. Kate Tyner BSN, RN, CIC¹; Andrea Riley BSN, RN⁴, Dr. Alice Sato⁴, Robin Williams³; Dr. Juan Teran Plasencia^{1,3}

1. Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program, Nebraska Medicine, Omaha, NE; 2. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Lincoln, NE; 3. Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE; 4. Children's Nebraska, Omaha, NE

Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic required the rapid deployment of infection prevention and control (IPC) resources for schools, yet school needs remain poorly understood
- Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP), supported by Nebraska DHHS, partnered with Children's Nebraska and the Global Center for Health Security at UNMC to develop key resources that included:
 - Statewide conference with sessions made available online for continuous education
 - Monthly Newsletter
 - Access to HEPA filters
 - Development of the Nebraskan Infection Control in Education (NICE) Book
- To assess the usefulness of the resources and identify knowledge gaps and resource needs, a state survey was conducted

Methods

- From September to October 2024, a REDCap survey was distributed to school nurse contact lists, social media, and the ICAP website
- The survey was directed to school nurses, health paraprofessionals, and administrators in healthcare roles. Survey was limited to Nebraska
- Eligible participants answered 10 IPC questions

Fig. 1 Areas for Support and Education

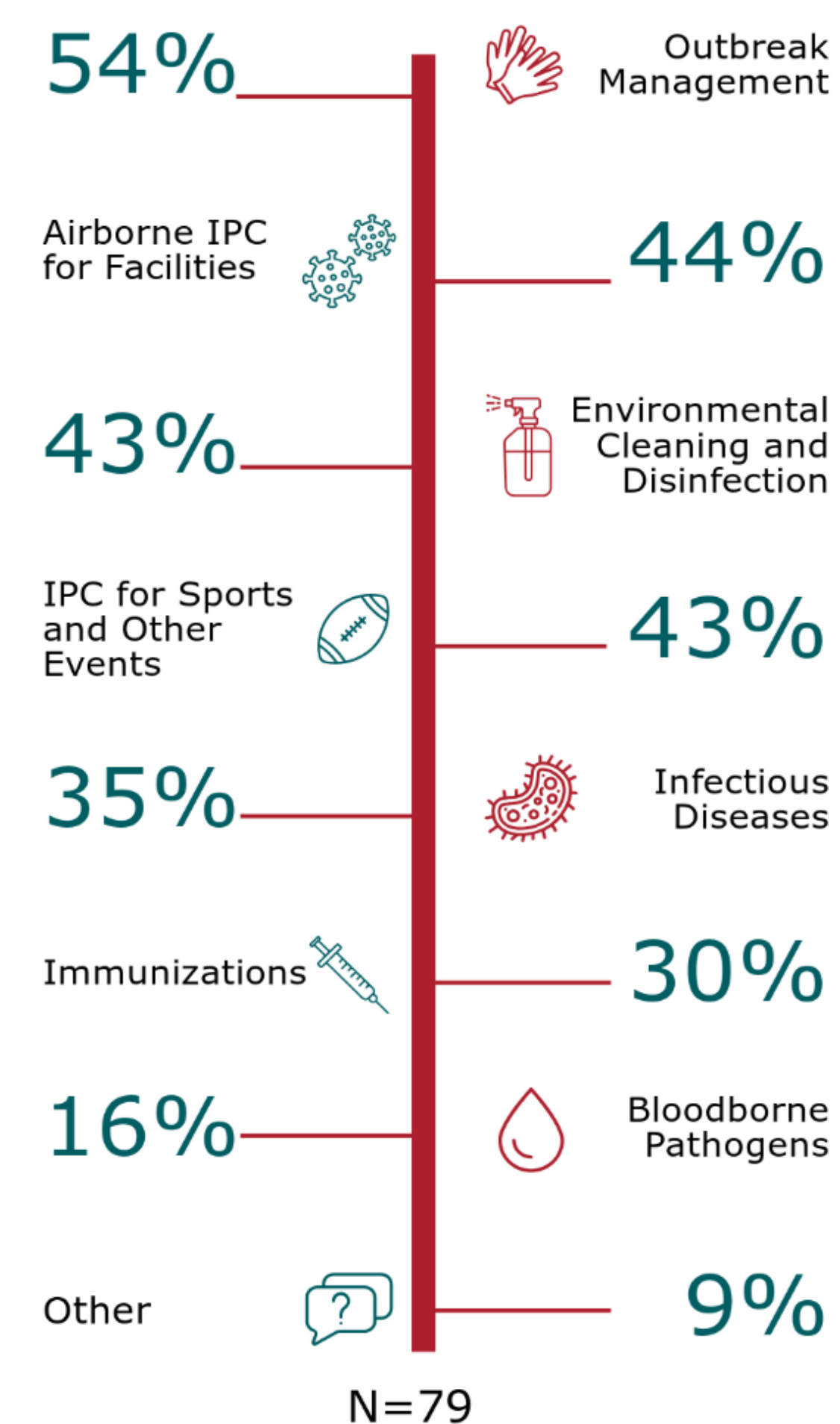
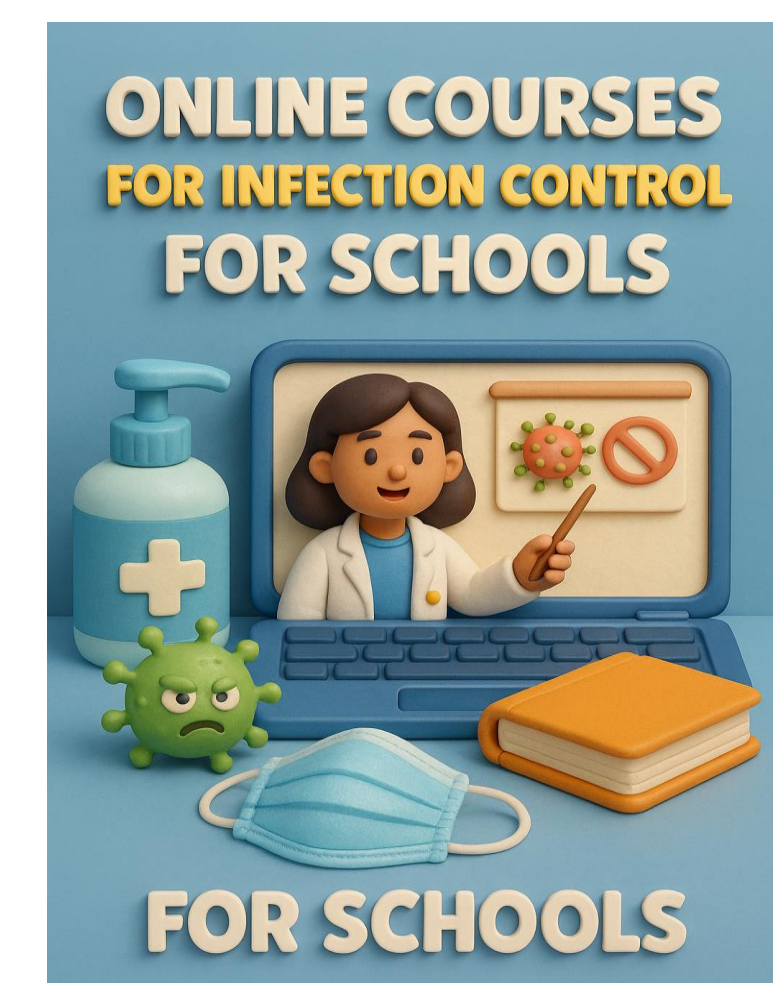
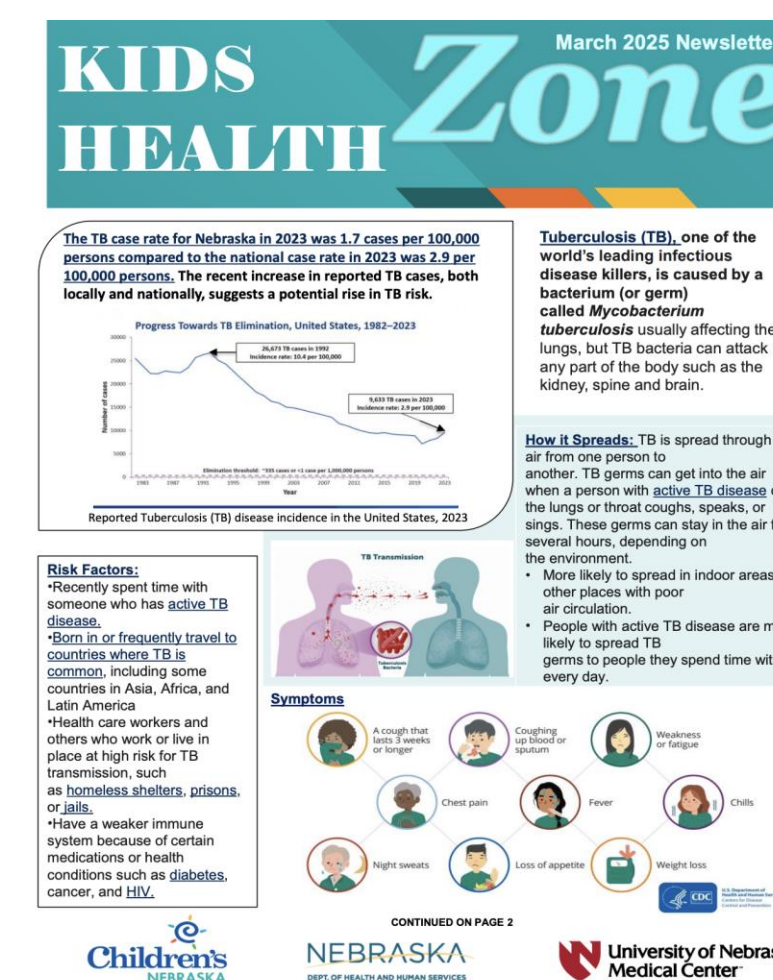
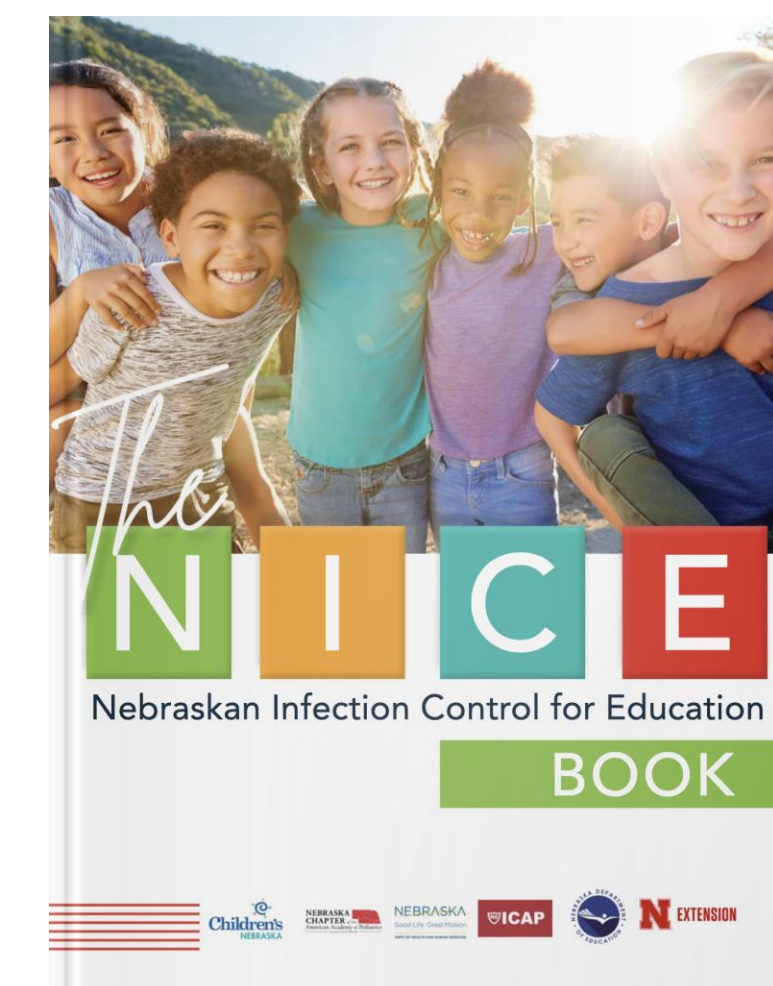


Table 1 Resources Identified as a Priority Need

Resources (N=22)	N (%)
Immunization Documentation and Health Regulations	7 (32%)
Hygiene and Safety Supplies	4 (18%)
Education and Management of Health Concerns	3 (14%)
Translated Content	3 (14%)
Parent Letters	2 (9%)
Educational Flyers/Posters/Handouts	2 (9%)
Professional Development and Training	1 (5%)



Results

- 88 individuals completed the survey; of those, 79 were eligible for analysis
- The most frequently used resources over the last 12 months included the NICE book 70% (N=55), followed by the Kids Health Zone 48% (N=38)
- When asked about language resources for the NICE book, Spanish was most frequently requested 78% (N=32), followed by Karen (10%) and Arabic (7%)
- Table 1 shows resources that have been identified as a priority by school staff
- When asked about topics for the monthly newsletter, general infectious diseases and common illnesses were most frequently requested 54% (N=20), followed by general IPC topics, 41% (N=15), and insect bites and infestations, 30% (N=11)

Conclusions

- This survey identified key needs among school health staff, highlighting demand for support in outbreak management, airborne transmission prevention, and accessible educational materials