

# FOCUS ON FLU



# INFLUENZA IN KENTUCKY: A SNAPSHOT

Kentuckians suffer from historically poor health outcomes related to influenza. In 2018, the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) and the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC), in partnership with the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, are launching a public health campaign, Focus on Flu, to share best practices for mitigating another statewide flu epidemic. The campaign will seek to dispel common myths about the flu and flu vaccine, inform patients on steps to take in the event that they do contract the virus, and educate all Kentuckians on preventing the spread of the flu.

## STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT



# \$352,116,143

DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS RELATED TO FLU\*

### COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST FLU-RELATED COSTS



JEFFERSON	\$63.6 MILLION
FAYETTE	\$23.3 M
KENTON	\$12.6 M
BOONE	\$8.4 M
WARREN	\$8.3 M
HARDIN	\$7.8 M
DAVISS	\$7.4 M
CAMPBELL	\$7.1 M
MADISON	\$6.2 M
PULASKI	\$5.7 M

### DIRECT COSTS\*



MEDICAL EXPENDITURES  
INCLUDING HOSPITALIZATIONS,  
DRUG PURCHASES AND  
OUTPATIENT VISITS



## \$127,968,409

### INDIRECT COSTS\*



LOSS OF PRODUCTIVITY DUE TO  
WORK/SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM OR  
DEATH



## \$224,147,733

ACCORDING TO THE CDC,  
**FLU VACCINATION**  
REDUCES THE RISK  
OF INFECTION BY  
**40-60%**



RESIDENTS OF AREAS WHERE  
MORE THAN

**20%** OF HOUSEHOLDS  
FALL BELOW THE  
POVERTY LINE ARE ALMOST

**TWICE AS LIKELY**

TO BE HOSPITALIZED FOR  
COMPLICATIONS FROM THE  
FLU\*\*\*

## LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

THE AVERAGE FLU VACCINATION RATE  
AMONG KENTUCKY COUNTIES WITH  
THE **HIGHEST** LEVELS OF POVERTY IS  
NEARLY 20% **LOWER** THAN THE  
VACCINATION RATE OF COUNTIES WITH  
THE **LOWEST** LEVELS OF POVERTY\*\*

**38.1%**

#### SOURCES:

\*US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, "Annual economic impacts of seasonal influenza on US counties: Spatial heterogeneity and patterns," <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3479051/#S2>

\*\*Kentucky Health Facts, "Flu Vaccination in the Past Year (percent adults)," <http://www.kentuckyhealthfacts.org/data/topic/show.aspx?ind=64>

\*\*\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Influenza-Related Hospitalizations and Poverty Levels – United States, 2010–2012," <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6505a1.htm>

Kentucky Foundation  
for Medical Care

