# 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
DAVIESS	\$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

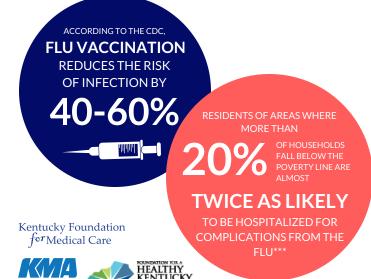
\$127, 968, 409

#### **INDIRECT COSTS\***



LOSS OF PRODUCTIVITY DUE TO WORK/SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM OR DEATH

\$224,147,733



### **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\*\*



#### 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