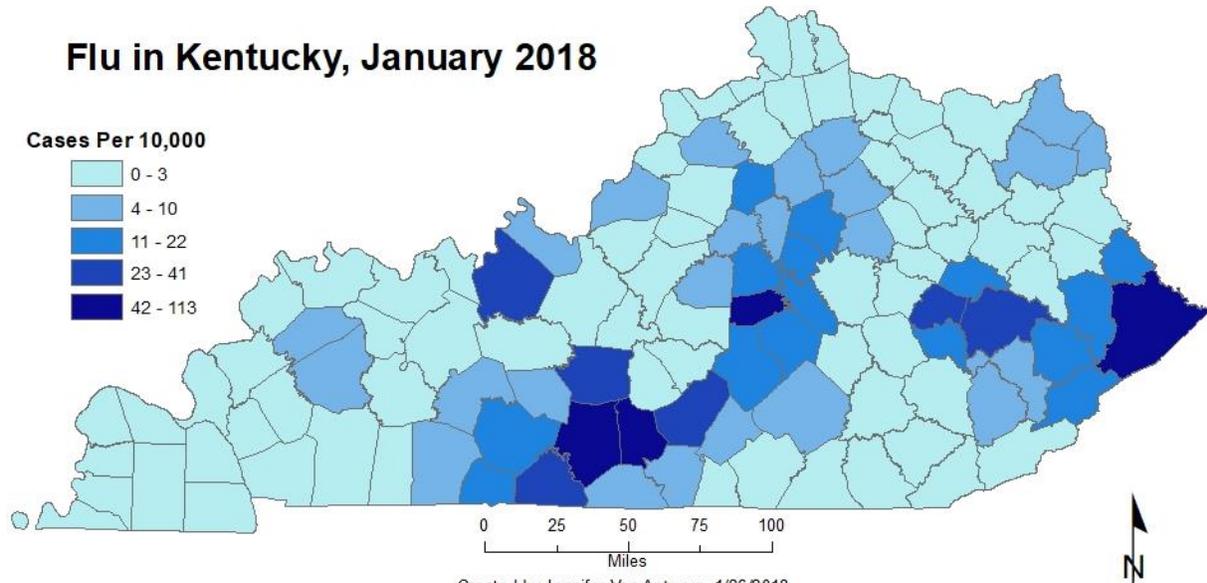


## Flu in Kentucky, January 2018



Sources: Kentucky State Data Center, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

The flu season is already widespread across [Kentucky](#) (KYDPH) and the [United States](#) (CDC). Kentucky school districts are taking measures to protect their students. So far this flu season, four Kentucky school districts including Taylor County, Campbellville Independent, Washington County, and Trigg County have had to cancel school due to attendance as well as disinfecting and sanitize the buildings. An article by [Cincinnati.com](#) explains what different Kentucky schools are doing to prevent the flu from spreading. Boone County Schools are emphasizing the importance of properly washing hands, covering coughs, and getting vaccinated. Campbell County Schools are monitoring school attendance, disinfecting surfaces daily, and are emphasizing ways to prevent the spread of germs to students. Kenton County Schools are also following what Campbell County and Boone County Schools are doing.

The [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) recommends that those who are not vaccinated should get the injectable vaccine and should avoid the nasal spray vaccine. If you do get the flu and experience symptoms beyond mild sickness or are considered high risk, then it is recommended to seek medical attention. The CDC estimates that flu illnesses range between 9.2 million and 35.6 million illnesses each year in the United States since 2010. Many people who have the flu never go to the doctor which keeps the flu underreported, but alternative crowdsourced websites like [flunearyou.org](#) maintain alternative datasets.

Geographers and other specialists at the CDC use information and maps to monitor illnesses over space and time. By examining these types of maps, they can determine the distribution of illness as well as how and where the illness is spreading (diffusion). This information can then be shared with others so that medical supplies can be used most effectively and the general population can be more informed about the world around them. A Geography in the News [\(GITN\) article](#) from National Geographic explains this idea in more detail.