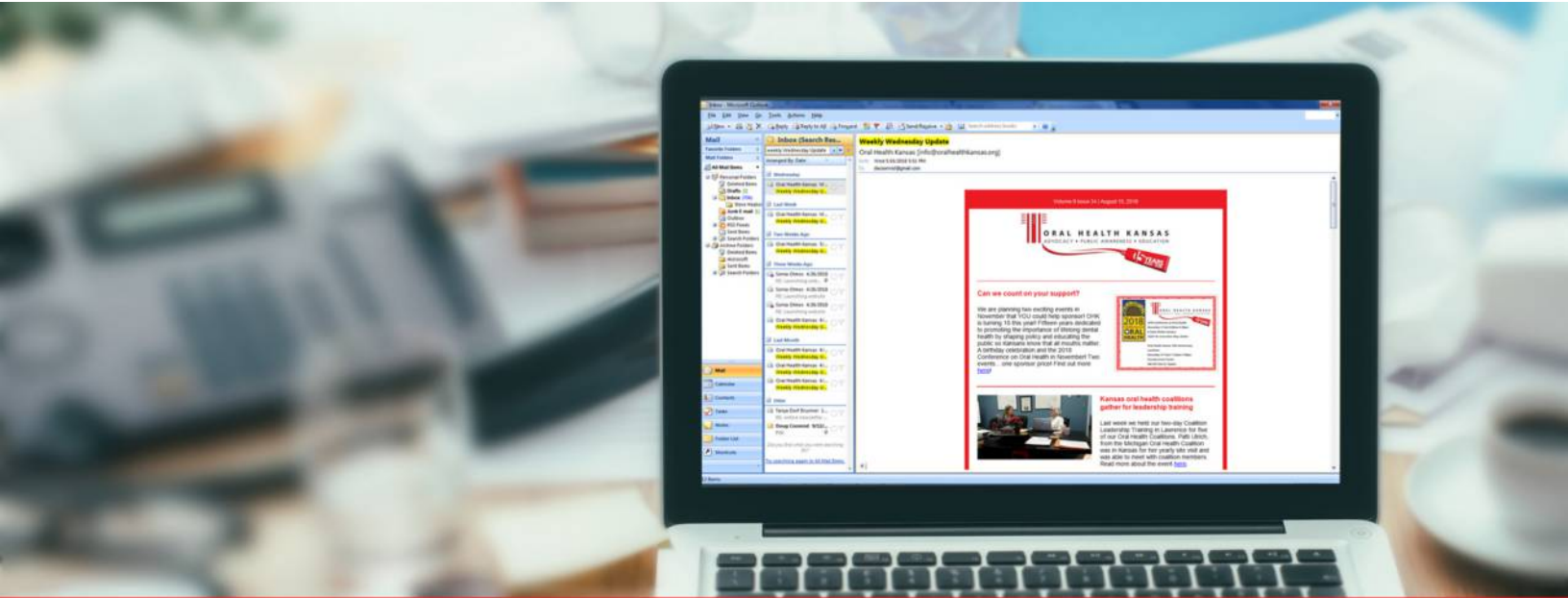




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

## January 6, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 1



## 2021 Legislative Session Begins On Monday

The 2021 Kansas Legislative Session will begin on Monday, January 11th. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this session is expected to be unlike any other. Focus for session will most likely include the state's economic recovery and tax policy.

## What will session look like with COVID-19?

Although COVID-19 guidelines have not been 100% set by leadership, we do anticipate face masks, closed galleries, and a stronger virtual presence. All committee rooms have been upgraded with technology to allow both audio and video-conferencing capabilities, which will increase advocate's ability to testify and listen to committee hearings without being at the Capitol. The downside of a heavier virtual presence is that most advocacy work will have to be conducted by phone and email.

## What will be OHK's focus?

Oral Health Kansas will work with House and Senate Health Committees to hold an oral health briefing in both health committees within the first 60 days of session, per a recommendation from the KanCare Oversight Committee in December. These briefings will introduce our organization, new state oral health data, and potential policy implications to the committee members.

Along with the oral health briefing, OHK will continue to work toward increased access to providers and increased access to a payment source throughout the 2021 Legislative Session. We will also work on policies that impact access to a dental provider during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as teledentistry authorization.

View our 2021 Policy Priorities [here](#).

## Where can I find members of the House and Senate Health Committees?

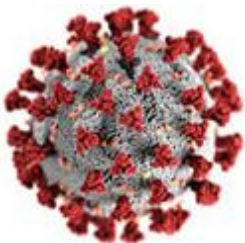
[House Health & Human Services Committee](#): Brenda Landwehr (Chair) and Dr. John Eplee (Vice Chair)

[Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee](#): Richard Hilderbrand (Chair) and Beverly Gossage (Vice Chair)

## How can I listen to committee hearings?

Live listening to hearings is available at [this link](#).

Most committees are archived on YouTube at [this link](#).



## Helpful Facts About The COVID19 Vaccine

The American Dental Association (ADA) recently shared a [fact sheet](#) with information about the COVID19 vaccine. The document includes key facts for dental professionals on the overall status of COVID-19 vaccines in the United States and the safety and efficacy data on the Pfizer vaccine. This information can help people make an informed decision if they are interested in receiving the vaccine. The ADA will continue to monitor developments related to COVID-19 vaccine approval and administration on behalf of the profession and public.



## Upcoming Events

As we try to keep you informed on national and state news, here are a list of webinars and events that may be of interest to you:

- The Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention (OSAP) is holding a 4-part COVID-19 Webinar Series providing specific infection prevention and control information for dental settings. Register for the webinar

by visiting [here](#).

- Day of Racial Healing for the Oral Health Community Workshop, January 19. Click [here](#) for more information.

- [SaludTues](#), Tweetchat “Improving Oral Health across the Latino Lifespan”, January 12. [Here](#) is the information.



2020 was a year like none we have experienced, and 2021 will be filled with challenges, even as we all hope for a return to normalcy. Several Oral Health Kansas Board

members volunteered to do something nearly unprecedented. Because of the uncertain times, four members agreed to serve an extra year beyond their normal terms in order to ensure we have

consistency and stability in the new year. Thank you to Robyne Goates, Chip Blaser, Krista Hahn, and Barb Conant. We appreciate your leadership and support so very much.



## Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

**Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.**



During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.



## Follow Us



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