

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](#).

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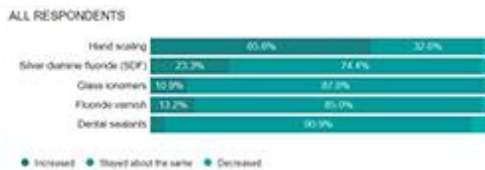


Yes, It's Safe To Go To The Dentist

The American Dental Association (ADA) published a study that reports that less than 1 percent of dentists nationwide have been found to be COVID-19 positive, which is far less than that of other health professionals. The report includes data from nearly 2,200 dentists surveyed in June 2020. It's the first of its kind to show U.S. dentists' COVID-19 rates as well as

safety practices. Dental offices are already doing techniques to help prevent the spread of COVID. Dentists have always practiced infection control and are taking the precautions needed.

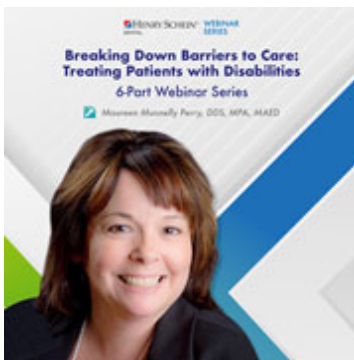
Oral Health Kansas created a short video on what a dental office may look like during the COVID pandemic. Click [here](#) to watch the video.



A Rise In Non-Invasive Dental Care

The American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute [shared data this week](#) they collect from dental practices across the country about the effect of the COVID pandemic on their practice. Dental offices were asked how their practices have changed their use of five techniques in an effort to reduce aerosol production. They reported they are increasing their use of hand scaling, silver diamine fluoride, glass ionomers, fluoride varnish, and dental sealants. The biggest increase is in hand scaling, but there are increases in the use of each of these services that mitigate dental decay.

Hand scaling is a technique dental hygienists can use to clean teeth without producing aerosols. Silver diamine fluoride and glass ionomers are used to stop dental decay without using a drill. Fluoride varnish and dental sealants are commonly used with children and are designed to protect teeth from future decay. This is an encouraging trend to see the use of non-invasive dental care techniques increase across the country.



Breaking Down Barriers To Care

People with disabilities are at a much higher risk for having oral disease, yet professional oral health services are their number one unmet health need. There are many barriers that make accessing care difficult. The most commonly cited barrier to care is financial. The 2020 Kansas Legislature approved a Medicaid dental rate increase. OHK has been working hard to make sure that the increases affect the dental services that are most often used for people with disabilities. We are waiting on the state Medicaid program to finalize the codes and policy, but we remain hopeful the rate increase will be in effect soon.

Another barrier is the low number of dentists who feel prepared to provide treatment to

people with disabilities. Ninety percent of people requiring Special Care Dentistry should be able to access treatment in a general practice setting if they are prepared for what to expect and the dental offices is prepared to serve them.

Henry Schein Dental is offering a six-part series of workshops called **Breaking Down Barriers to Care: Treating Patients with Disabilities**. Dr. Maureen Munnely Perry, Professor of Special Care Dentistry and the Director of the Center for Advanced Oral Health at AT Still University in Mesa, Arizona, will share her knowledge about common disabilities, effective adaptations for treating people with disabilities, behavior management techniques, and more.

Attendees will gain the knowledge and tools that will equip them to confidently accept and effectively treat people with disabilities.

Each webinar offers 1 Continuing Education (CE) credit:

- \$20 per Webinar (if you wish to receive CE credit)
- No cost to attend (if you do not wish to receive CE credit)

Register: <https://henryscheindigital.com/breaking-down-barriers.php>



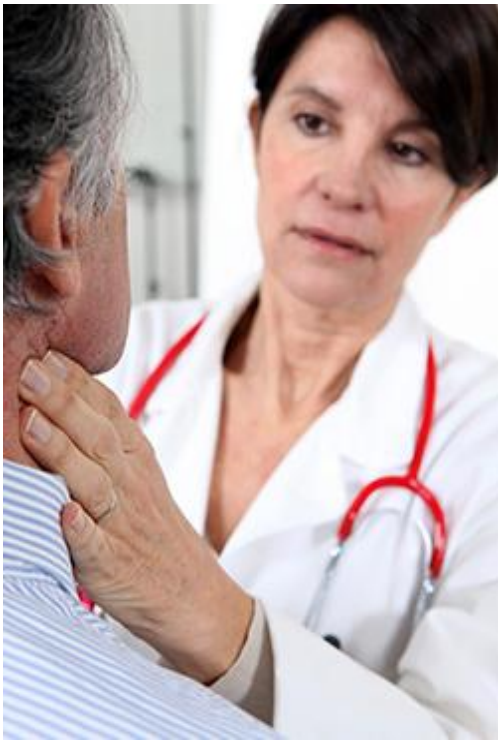
Celebrate National Rural Health Day This Week

National Rural Health Day is recognized on Thursday, November 19. It's an opportunity to celebrate the "Power of Rural", bringing to light the unique healthcare challenges that rural residents face and showcasing the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address

those challenges. Rural communities often lack adequate oral healthcare and subsequently miss out on the benefits of good oral health as well.

Below are factors contributing to the oral health challenges of rural America found on the [Rural Health Information Hub website](#):

- Access to dental care
- Oral health literacy
- Fluoridation of water supplies
- Tobacco use



Sign Up For Your 2021 Health Insurance

Open enrollment for the 2021 marketplace health insurance is open until December 15. If this is the first time you are applying for insurance through the marketplace, you can respond to questions to determine which plan is suitable for you. [Here](#) is a checklist to prepare for your application and have everything ready to apply.

If you need help choosing a dental health plan on the marketplace, OHK hosted this helpful [webinar](#) to learn how dental coverage is available in the Kansas marketplace, the differences between stand-alone dental plans and dental coverage as part of a qualified health plan, and an explanation of factors that families should understand before purchasing a plan.



Congratulations to Junetta Everett, Dental Champions Class 2 alumni, for being honored as the Health/Business



Trailblazer by the [Kansas African American Museum \(TKAAM\)](#). A Trailblazer is a leader, a pacesetter, a pioneer who has made a significant impact in their respective

category. This description is what Junetta is known for. She is a former member of the Dental Champions Advisory Board, works as the Vice President of Professional Relations for Delta Dental of Kansas, and is the Chair of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. We are thrilled for her to receive such an award!



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.

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