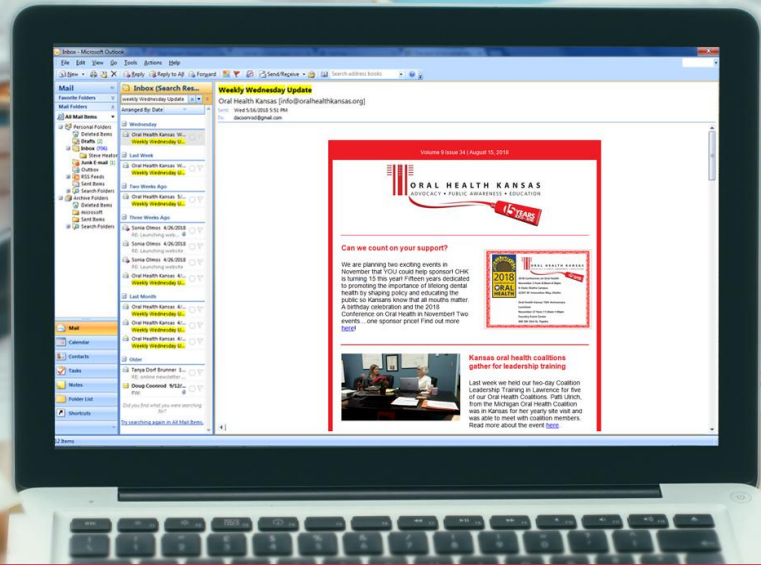




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
 ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

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Consider Donating to Oral Health Kansas

It is never too late to donate for Giving Tuesday! The pandemic has had a financial strain on many individuals and organizations, including Oral Health Kansas. We are grateful for the partnerships, advocates, dental champions, and funders supporting our work. Learn how to financially support the mission of Oral Health Kansas [here](#).



KDHE Leadership Change

Shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Dr. Lee Norman stepped down following his leadership of the agency throughout the COVID pandemic. Governor Laura Kelly [thanked him for his service to the state](#), “From the first confirmed case until today, Dr. Norman has played a vital role within this administration to provide guidance and help steer our state’s response to the virus. His and his team’s work to keep Kansans safe during this once-in-a-century public health crisis has cemented his place as the most consequential Secretary of Health and Environment in Kansas history.”

This week Governor Kelly announced that Janet Stanek will serve as the next KDHE Secretary. Stanek serves as the Director of the State Employee Health Benefits Program and previously spent 21 years in leadership roles at Stormont Vail Health Topeka. Governor Kelly [lauded Stanek’s experience](#), “With Janet’s decades of experience as well as the relationships she has built across the medical community in Kansas, I have no doubt that she will be able to step into this role immediately and continue the agency’s critical work.”

Oral Health Kansas enjoyed working with Dr. Norman and looks forward to working with Janet Stanek in her new role leading the state agency that oversees both public health and the Medicaid program.

A screenshot of a digital form titled "My Dental Care Passport" with a purple header and a white body. The form includes a header with a tooth icon, a paragraph of introductory text, and several input fields: "This form was completed with help from:" with sub-fields for "Phone:" and "E-mail:", a large "ALL ABOUT ME" section with a person icon, "My name is:", "I like to be called: (nick name if you have one)", "I am:" with radio buttons for "Male", "Female", and "Something else", and "My preferred gender pronoun is:" with checkboxes for "he", "she", "they", "ze", "not listed", and "no preference".

NEW Resource for People with Disabilities

At Oral Health Kansas, we are striving to improve access to dental care for Kansans with disabilities through education, advocacy, and public awareness. What better way to announce a new resource than in honor of International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd! Oral Health Kansas is pleased to share the NEW Dental Passport, developed through Dental Homes for Kids, a collaboration of Kansas organizations working towards

improved oral health for Kansans with disabilities. The Dental Passport was developed to gather information from a person with a disability to help the dental team better understand their needs during their dental visit. It contains detailed information such as communication preferences, mobility limitations, and helpful strategies to best prepare for a successful dental visit. The fillable PDF version of the Dental Passport can be found [here](#).

Additional Oral Health Kansas resources for people with disabilities are available on the [OHK website](#).



Special Session Ends with Bill Approval

Last week, Kansas lawmakers gathered for a special session at the Capitol building to consider legislation that provides exemptions to COVID-19 vaccine requirements and unemployment compensation for anyone fired due to vaccination status. The bill was sent to and signed by Governor Laura Kelly after approval in both the Senate (24-11) and the House (77-34). Learn more about the special session [here](#). The full legislature is not expected to return to Topeka until January 10, 2022.



Extended Care Permit III Course Enrollment Open

The University of Missouri “Kansas City School of Dentistry has announced an Extended Care Permit (ECP) III course will begin in January 2022. This program is offered as an online course and will conclude with a practical lab component and competency exam held on-site at the dental school. Upon completion of the course, the student must apply separately to the Kansas Dental Board for the ECP III certification. Learn more [here!](#)



The 100 Million Mouths Project is expanding!

The Center for the Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH) is looking for individuals to apply to join their national network of oral health education champions. They are looking for applicants from Kansas as well as Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Ohio. For more information click

here: <https://lnkd.in/gabJpibg>.



U.S. House Passes "Build Back Better" Bill

The bill ([H.R. 5376](#)) narrowly passed the House on Friday morning by a vote of 220-213. The White House estimated the bill would cost \$1.75 trillion and reduce the deficit by generating more than \$2.1 trillion over 10 years. According to [NRWA's Rural Water Advisory](#), the final version of the bill appears to have dropped some of the water funding provisions included in the [version](#) released by the White

House just over two weeks ago, but it does include:

- \$97 million to USDA for grants for rural water and wastewater programs (Section 12001)
- \$970 million to USDA for replacing service lines that contain lead (Section 12002)
- \$9 billion for EPA for lead service line replacement (Section 30301)
- \$225 million for EPA for low-income water customers to reduce arrearages and water rates (Section 30302)
- \$125 million for EPA to support investment in alternative water source projects (Section 110014)
- \$1.850 billion for EPA for sewer overflow and stormwater reuse projects (Section 110015)
- \$150 million for EPA for domestic septic systems, including connecting households with failing septic systems to public sewer systems (Section 110016) and
- \$550,000,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation for potable water supply projects (Section 70801)

The bill still has a long and difficult road ahead. Democratic leaders must coax it through the 50-50 Senate and navigate a tortuous budget process that is almost certain to reshape the measure and force it back to the House "if it passes at all. [[source](#)]. Thanks to the Kansas Rural Water Association for sharing this story.



Ingram's magazine recognized Health Forward Foundation President and CEO Qiana Thomason in the 20th Anniversary of their Women Executives-Kansas City recognition program, which spotlights executive achievement

among women. Thomason oversees Kansas City's largest health-focused foundation and one of the five biggest overall. She is a Kansas City native who is dedicated to improving health in the community and all of the factors that affect health. [Read more](#) about the Women Executives recognition and Thomason's background and vision for health in Kansas City.





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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