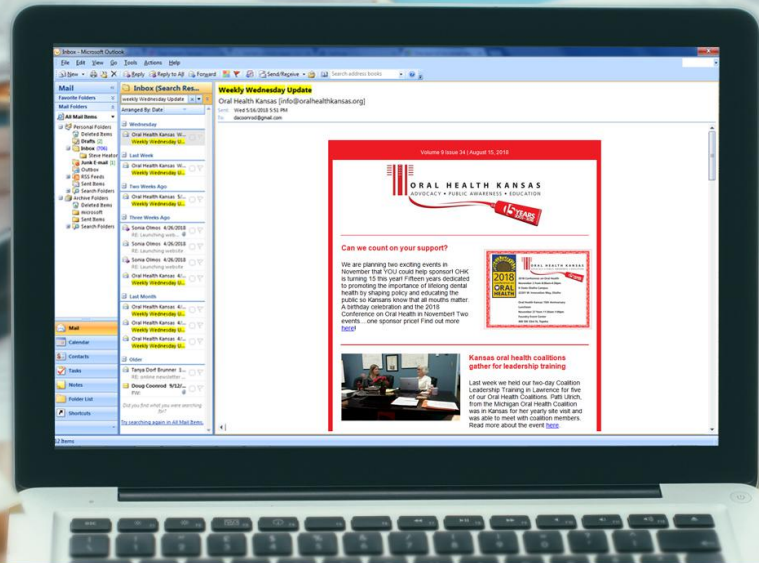




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## 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](#).

December 8, 2021

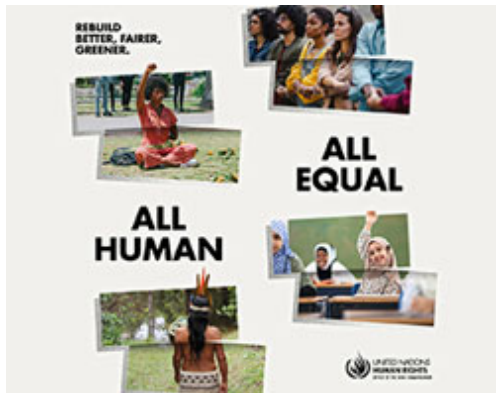
Volume 12, Issue 46



## Oral Health Kansas Featured in Health Affairs

A December article in *Health Affairs* titled, "Oral Health Care: What are Funders Supporting" highlighted Oral Health Kansas' adult dental advocacy work being funded through [Health Forward Foundation](#) and [CareQuest Institute](#). OHK Executive Director, Tanya Dorf-Brunner, is quoted in the article sharing, "Access to dental care has increased somewhat in recent years through managed care

organizations participating in KanCare (Kansas Medicaid), but consistent and comprehensive dental coverage remains elusive for Kansas adults living in poverty.” The [full article](#) details strategies and funding sources for the work. Learn more about our Medicaid Adult Dental Advocacy on our [new OHK webpage!](#)



## Human Rights Day

December 10 is Human Rights Day, a time for people in the U.S. and around the world to join together and stand up for the rights and dignity of all individuals. Good oral health should not be available only for those with resources and dental insurance, it should be a fundamental human right to be able to access a dentist and maintain good oral health. Good oral health does not stay in the mouth. It has a direct impact on an individual's overall health and quality of life. As [Ian Peate](#) stated, *“Only by taking a holistic approach to health promotion, by addressing risk factors that are shared by systemic and oral diseases, can there be any success in achieving improved levels of oral health for the population — young, old and those in between.”*

### Looking for ways to celebrate Human Rights Day?

- [Donate](#) to an organization fighting for equality, like Oral Health Kansas!
- Have a conversation with a friend, coworker, or family member about the importance of human rights.
- Answer this question on your social media: “What does equality mean to you?”
- Speak to [your legislator](#) about the importance of access to dental care for all Kansans.
- Watch Eleanor Roosevelt’s Human Rights [Speech](#) from 1948.

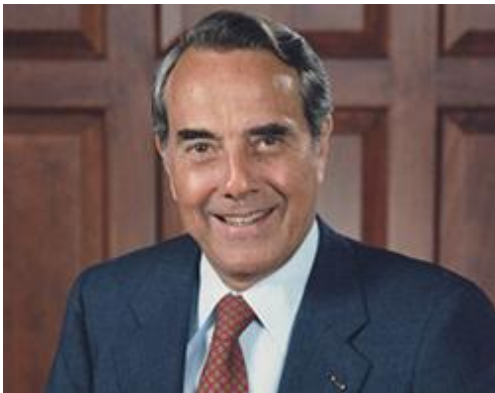


## Importance of Fluoride Varnish for Young Children

Fluoride varnish is one of the treatments for preventing tooth decay that can begin as soon as a child's first teeth appear. In the United States, approximately 25% of children aged 2 to 5 and more than half of children aged 6 to 8 are affected by tooth decay. This could be reduced by fluoride varnish, a sticky varnish that is applied to

teeth with a brush and dries in a few hours. In most states Medicaid pays for fluoride application but [fewer than 8%](#) receive fluoride application in medical settings.

This number could be increased if the parents or caregivers are aware of the benefits of fluoride varnish and the importance of baby teeth. Primary teeth (also known as baby teeth, deciduous teeth or milk teeth) need the same care as permanent teeth. Maintaining healthy primary teeth is important for a child's overall well-being. Primary teeth with cavities can affect permanent teeth if they are not treated. Parents play a key role in achieving the best oral health outcomes for their children. Oral Health Kansas has many resources for parents or caregivers to maintain their child's baby teeth. One among them is "[Your Baby's First Year](#)" which has tips and tricks to maintain a healthy routine to prevent cavities in primary teeth. Parents also can refer to "[Fluoride for Healthy Teeth](#)" to understand that it is appropriate to ask their children's dentist and pediatrician to apply fluoride varnish during regular visits.



## Senator Bob Dole Passes at Age 98

Oral Health Kansas joins with our fellow Kansans in marking the loss of former U.S. Senator Bob Dole. Senator Dole was a World War II veteran, the longest serving U.S. Senator from Kansas, and one of the foremost leaders in the Senate for many years. He also was the Republican Presidential nominee in 1996.

Senator Dole was proud of his roots in Russell, Kansas.

He was severely wounded in World War II and became a leading advocate for people with disabilities. He was a key figure in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. We share Senator Dole's interest in advocating for people with disabilities and in our pride in our home state of Kansas. As we mark the sad passing of this icon of American and Kansas history, we are proud of his service.



## Optimizing Care Systems for People with Disabilities: A Workshop

The National Academies will host a virtual workshop on December 8, 10, & 14 from 12-3PM to explore the challenges and opportunities for creating an optimal care system for individuals with intellectual and

developmental disabilities (IDD). It will explore questions related to three areas of focus:

- Models of care that deliver holistic, tailored, and coordinated care
- The development of a competent workforce
- Effective financing and payment approaches

The workshop will focus not only on the health care system, but also on how it might coordinate with peers in other service domains. [Register here](#). To view the draft agenda and more information about this event, please [visit our website](#).



Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Suter on being featured on “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” on Cyber Monday! Dr. Suter spoke at the 2019 Conference on Oral Health and has been an advisor to many people in Kansas working on



teledentistry. Check out Dr. Suter’s moment of fame [in this video](#).

It’s from minute 5:13 through minute 6:12. The late-night television host said he likes to share news about small businesses around Cyber Monday, and Dr. Suter’s Green Leaf Dental Care was one of the lucky businesses featured this year. Congrats on your national TV appearance, Dr. Suter! #colbertsmallbizbump .



## 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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