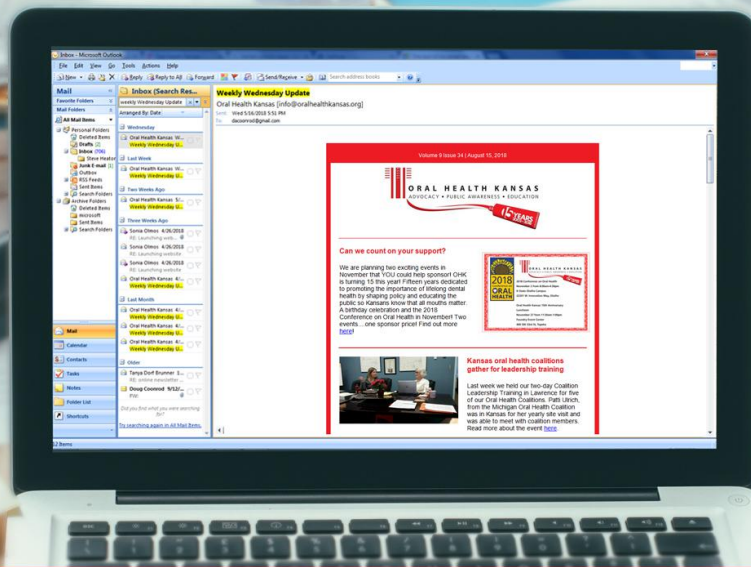




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

February 3, 2021

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Oral Health Kansas Presents At Legislative Oral Health Briefing

Last Thursday, January 28th, Oral Health Kansas joined other state stakeholders for an oral health briefing before the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee. Oral Health Kansas discussed the importance of dental public health programs, new Kansas-specific oral health data (that we look forward to sharing with you soon!),

and the Kansas Oral Health Improvement Act bill currently being drafted that would add comprehensive adult dental benefits to our Medicaid program. View Oral Health Kansas' testimony [here](#) and [here](#).

Thank you to the Kansas Dental Association, Kansas Health Institute, and Delta Dental of Kansas for joining OHK in elevating the importance of oral health among the Kansas Legislature. We are also grateful to Senator Hilderbrand for the opportunity to present before his committee. A recording of the full committee hearing can be found [here](#).



Governor Recognizes National Children's Dental Health Month

Thank you to Kansas Governor Laura Kelly for [signing a proclamation](#) recognizing February as National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM). Every year, this month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers, and many others. Each week during NCDHM, we will share fun facts about oral health in our Weekly Wednesday Update! Watch our social media for other fun information during NCDHM.



Governor Kelly Announces New Medicaid Expansion Plan

On Monday, Governor Laura Kelly unveiled a new proposal for Medicaid Expansion, re-enforcing her commitment to improving access to healthcare in our state. Expansion of the state's Medicaid program, KanCare, would extend health care coverage, including dental care, to as many as 165, 0000 low-income Kansans. Governor Kelly's new plan would use revenue from legalizing medicinal marijuana to cover the costs of expansion. View Governor Kelly's full press release [here](#).

Oral Health Kansas remains committed to supporting the expansion of Medicaid to increase access to dental care for thousands of low-income Kansans. We do not have a position on medical marijuana.



Raising Awareness On World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is Thursday, February 4. This is a day used to raise awareness, improve education, and work together towards eliminating preventable cancer deaths and providing treatment and care that is equal and accessible for all. This year's theme is 'I Am and I Will' and is about everyone being committed to reducing the impact of cancer.

According to the [Oral Cancer Foundation](#), oral and oropharyngeal cancers are the largest group of those cancers which fall into the head and neck cancer category. Common names for it include such things as mouth cancer, tongue cancer, tonsil cancer, and throat cancer. Read more about oral cancer and how to prevent it on our [Oral Cancer Tip and Trick](#).



Upcoming Events

The Kansas Health Institute offered two virtual orientations to review important health policy topics for legislators as they started the 2021 legislative session. You can find the recordings and sessions [here](#).

The Missouri Oral Health Coalition will be having their annual conference virtually on March 4-5.

<https://www.oralhealthmissouri.org/oral-health-conference>



Congratulations to Dr. John Dane on his retirement as the Missouri State Dental Director! Dr. Dane retired on January 29th after five years of service in his role. He was honored as the Missouri Dental Association's Dentist of the Year in 2020. He's been a big influence not only in Missouri, but also in

Kansas, and we've been fortunate to partner with Dr. Dane on several projects. We appreciate his service and dedication to public oral health and wish him all the best!





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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