



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## Teeth for Two workshop cancelled

If you signed up for a Teeth for Two workshop for March 9 in Wichita, this sessions has been **cancelled**. Emails to registrants went out last week with information. If you have any questions, please send them to [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)



## Johnson County Oral Health Coalition distributes toothbrush kits to seniors

Johnson County Oral Health Coalition continued its distribution of toothbrush kits seniors on Monday, February 29 to one hundred residents at Sunflower Apartments in Mission. Patty Martinette, a dental hygienist and Dental Champion, led an hour conversation with more than 30 residents about ways to maintain good dental health. Participants asked excellent questions, mostly focusing on community resources for dental care. For seniors who live on limited, fixed income, they find most dental services beyond their means.

In January, the coalition distributed 750 kits to participants in Meals on Wheels. The Johnson County Coalition is focusing primarily on improving the oral health of older adults in the county. If you would like to get involved, contact [Chuck Nigro Chair](#), Johnson County Oral Health Coalition.

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## New expand KanCare website

A new [website](#) to promote KanCare expansion, has been recently launched. The goal is to bring the voices of Kansans into this important policy discussion. Our elected officials need to hear from their constituents.

This new website also contains a wealth of information and resources about why expansion matters, as well as tools to help supporters urge their legislators to take action.



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## Kansas tax revenues drop again

On March 1, state officials announced that state revenues were \$53 million lower than projected in the month of February. This marks the largest monthly budget shortfall in the last year, and it brings the total fiscal year shortfall to over \$79 million. The [Topeka Capitol-Journal](#) reported that Kansas reached the revenue target only once in the past year - in November 2015.

[Kansas Public Radio](#) aired a commentary this week by Duane Goossen, Senior Fellow at the Kansas Center for Economic Growth and a former state budget director under three governors. Goossen



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## Tri-State Collaborative Initiative renews grant for second year

DentaQuest Foundation announced its renewal for the Tri-State Collaborative initiative. The initiative is a partnership between oral health coalitions in Kansas, Michigan and Wisconsin and is led by the Michigan Oral Health Coalition. The goal is to develop community level involvement in improving oral health in each state.

Kansas has several oral health coalitions in various counties: Sedgwick (Wichita), Shawnee (Topeka), Butler (El Dorado), Wyandotte (Kansas City), Finney (Garden City) and Johnson. Each coalition is working on a different community need in their area, from children's oral health to the elderly. The coalitions are developing ways to improve oral health across the lifespan and provide education to help Kansans better understand how to maintain good oral health.

[View](#) the press release for more details.

discusses the result of the tax policy experiment in Kansas and how it is affecting government, policies, and people.



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## National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month. In honor, Oral Health America is raising awareness for the connection between school nutrition and oral health. Join their [Campaign for Oral Health Equity](#), to help lead the effort: oral health affects overall health. Let's work together to improve the quality of life for all.



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## Healthcare Issues in the State of Kansas

Sheldon Weisgrau, Director, Health Reform Resource Project will be presenting at the Lawrence Public Library on Healthcare Issues in Kansas, March 3, from 1 pm-2:30 pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

# ORAL HEALTH FOR ALL 2020

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## Water Access Manager attends Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conference

Kelly Rippel, Water Access Manager was selected to attend a three day conference in Sacramento, California facilitated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There he and twenty professionals from across the United States learned the history of community water fluoridation, technical aspects of the public health legacy, and protocols about nutrient and chemical additives to water. Kelly became familiar with variances in statistical and epidemiological practices along with best practices in risk communication. These tools and references will help guide the Thirsty for Health initiative by bringing in all necessary experts to ensure sustainable implementations can occur in each community.

Kelly is excited to work with the Kansas Health Foundation's network, rural and city water operators plus design planners to help school districts receive resources they need to improve access to healthy drinking water for students. Interested in learning more? Contact [Kelly](#).



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## Drink Display

March is National Nutrition Month. Reserve a sugary drink display to show kiddos and parents how much sugar is in their beverage of choice and how to make a healthier beverage choice.

Sign up before the slots are full!

The drink display is free for you to use. We can ship to anywhere in Kansas! Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. To reserve a drink display, [email us!](#)



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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OHK's Kelly Rippel and Kip Duchon,  
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Tour of water plant in Sacramento

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