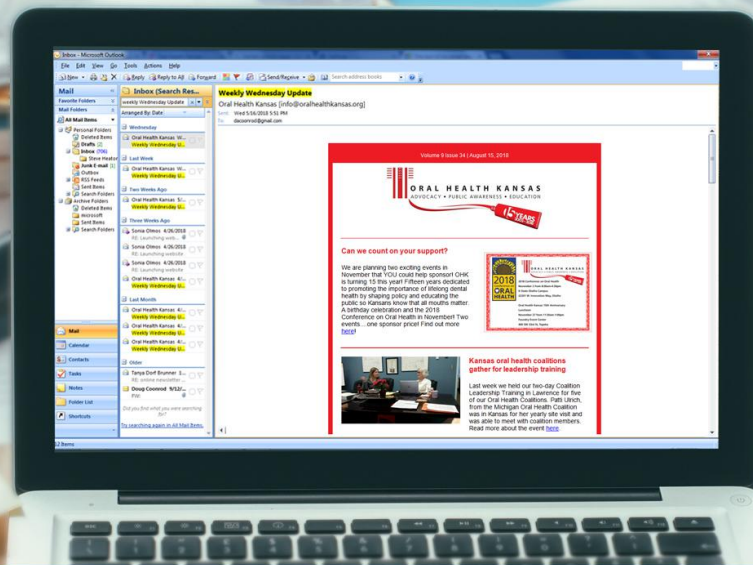




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

March 24, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 12



Spring Break For OHK

We love being a resource to you! We love advocating to improve oral health for Kansans! We also love ourselves. Oral Health Kansas office will be closed March 29 - April 2 to allow staff time to rejuvenate. If you need to reach us during that time, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Bill Would Study Senior Issues

This week Oral Health Kansas [testified](#) before a Senate committee in favor of a bill that would create a new Senior Care Task Force. The bill (HB 2114) offers the chance for the state to spend focused time studying issues like dementia; the use of antipsychotic medications; and safeguards for preventing abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Dental care is an important part of health care, and older people who are able to maintain their oral health through routine care are able to stay healthier longer. Dental diseases are associated with risks of heart disease, diabetes, and pneumonia. But dental diseases are entirely preventable and maintaining good oral health can help older adults stave off chronic conditions. In the hearing, we applauded the proposal to establish the Task Force and asked that it also examine health and oral health issues of older Kansans, as well as the connection between oral health and overall health.

The bill passed out of the House by a vote of 113 to 8. We look forward to a swift passage in the Senate now.



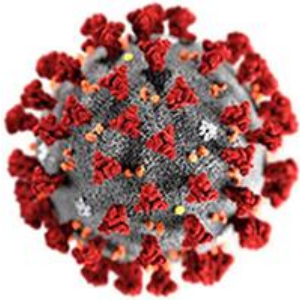
What To Know About Sugary Drinks

March is National Nutrition Month and a perfect time to learn about how much sugar is in our drinks. You are probably aware that sugary drinks are high in calories and can result in an unhealthy weight gain which, in turn, increases your risk of a number of diseases.

But, what if you're already a healthy weight? Do you get a pass? Unfortunately, no.

Sugary drinks hurt our hearts, not just our waistlines. Research shows sugary drinks can specifically lead to an imbalance in blood cholesterol, increasing the risk for heart disease, regardless of weight.

How does that happen? Turns out there are multiple ways. Thanks to the American Heart Association, Voices for Health Kids for writing an informative blog, [The Skinny on Sugary Drinks!](#)



Covid Resources For Oral Health

As we receive information or resources on oral health and Covid, we will continue to update our website. We recently added information for professionals interested in providing the Covid vaccine as well as research on oral health and Covid. Read more on our website [here](#). If we do not have an answer for information you are seeking, we can do the best we can to try to help you find the answer.

Email info@oralhealthkansas.org if you have further inquiries.



Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, November 4 and 5. More information will be provided.
- Health Effects of Vaping webinar on March 25 at 12pm CST. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Exploring the Wicked Problem of the Oral Health Care System: Medical/Dental Integration, March 25 at 12pm CST. Register [here](#).
- The Young Latinos Professionals of Wichita (YLPW) are hosting a Facebook event, Health in our Latino Communities on Tuesday, March 30 from 6pm-7pm. Find more information [here](#).
- Creating a Cultural Bridge, hosted by Kansas Office for Refugees (KSOR) is hosting a virtual training April 7, 8am-9am. Find more information [here](#).
- American Academy of Pediatrics Webinar: Addressing Adolescent Vaping and E-Cigarette Use, Friday, April 23, 2021 12-1pm CST. Register [here](#).



We are joyous to announce OHK staff member, Kathy Hunt, will be presenting a roundtable at the [National Oral Health Conference \(NOHC\)](#), *Oral Health for People with Disabilities- Learning about Healthy Smiles in a Virtual World*. Kathy will share how OHK spent significant time revising its face-to-face educational workshops for adults and

families with young children with disabilities into engaging virtual learning experiences. This presentation will showcase [Super Smiles for Your Child](#) and [Feeling Good About Your Smile](#). The session will be on Saturday, April 17 at 12:45 PM-1:30 PM CST.



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



Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567Topeka, KS 66604

785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 faxinfo@oralhealthkansas.org

Copyright 2021