

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](#).

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March 3, 2021

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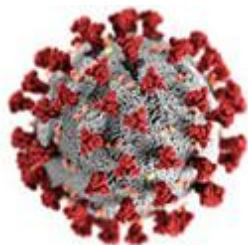
Turnaround Week At The Capitol

This week is known as “Turnaround Week” in the Kansas Legislature. That means that bills that started out in the House of Representatives must pass out, and bills that started out in the Senate must pass as well. Bills that do not pass out of their chamber of origin this week will be considered dead for the remainder of the year. It’s an important marker in the

legislative session, because it helps everyone see which issues are likely not going to be considered further right now and which will continue to be debated. We project that tax bills,

telemedicine, and emergency management oversight will see a lot of discussion in the second half of the session.

The dental legislation we have been following is likely dead for this year. A bill to implement dental therapy in the state received a hearing, but the committee did not vote on it. We introduced a bill to establish a comprehensive adult dental benefit, but it has not yet had a hearing. We do anticipate further consideration of a legislative study on the unmet dental needs of underserved populations. Starting next week the House and Senate will begin considering the bills that passed out of the opposite chamber. While the number of issues to be considered this year is narrowing, any bills that do not pass this year will still be alive for consideration in 2022.



Vaccine Executive Order

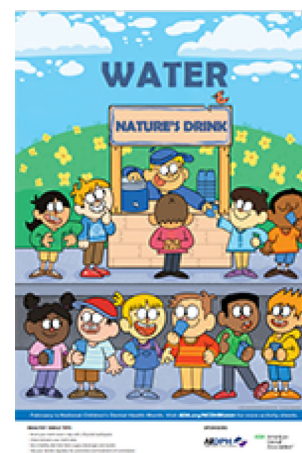
Last week Governor Laura Kelly issued [Executive Order 21-06](#) for temporary authorization of additional vaccinators during the public health state of disaster emergency. The Executive Order was issued because the Governor projects that as the state moves into Phase 3 of the COVID-19 vaccination plan, there will need to be more professionals available to provide the vaccine. Both dentists and dental

hygienists are authorized to administer the COVID-19 vaccine during the current public health emergency. The state is currently in Phase 2 of a [five-phase plan](#). Frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine plan are available [on this page](#) from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Oral Health Kansas is grateful that Governor Kelly is ensuring dental professionals can be part of helping Kansans through the pandemic. We will continue to follow this story and keep you updated.

Free Posters!

The American Dental Association (ADA) is offering [free posters](#) in English and Spanish with the theme “Water: Nature’s Drink”. These are fun posters that you can use in your office to promote the importance of drinking water with fluoride. Orders can be placed by clicking on [this](#) link. An ADA login is required to access the portal but anyone can make a login. Order by March 10!





Teledentistry Pilot Program

[Access Teledentistry](#) is working on a pilot program for 5 health centers to participate in. Their goal is to demonstrate a system of asynchronous teledentistry visits across various settings in multiple health centers. Applications will be reviewed with a funding partner on March 24th and will be based on matching program criteria and objectives. To learn more contact nsuter@accessteledent.com



Upcoming Events

- Voices for Kids will host an interactive training on telemedicine for Kansas families who have children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. Two dates are March 16 and April 15. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Accelerating Health Equity, March 16-18, 2021, hosted by the American Hospital Association's Community Health Improvement and the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity. Click [here](#) to register.
- The American Dental Association will host a "Health Effects of Vaping" webinar on March 25, 2021 at 12pm CST. Click [here](#) for more information.



Saturday, March 6 is National Dentists Day. A day to tell our dentists thank you! We also wanted to take this time to thank the three dentists on our board of

directors. We appreciate their input and passion they bring in our work to improve the health of Kansans.



From left to right: Dr. Nick Rogers, Dr. Preddis Sullivan and Dr. James Trotter



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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