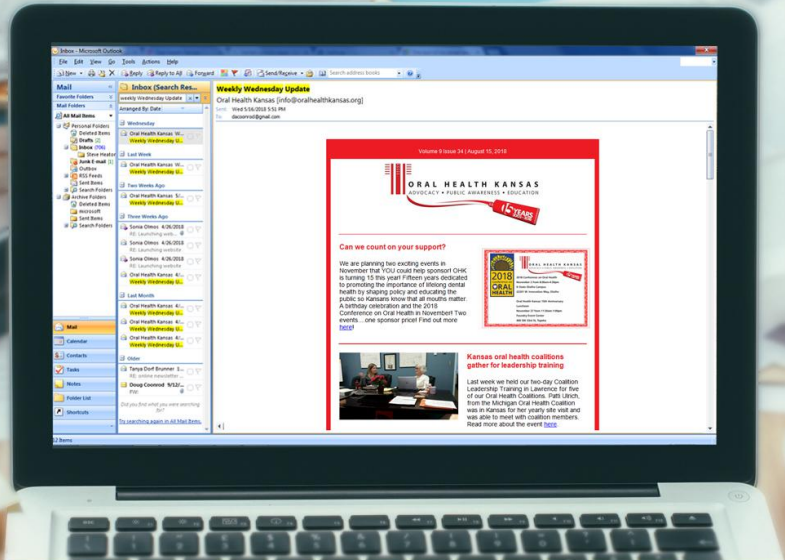




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## 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](#).

June 10, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 23



## Conference Planning Committee Wants To Hear From You

If you haven't heard yet, the 2020 Conference on Oral Health will be virtual in November. We want to make sure we bring you the experience, the knowledge and the fun as we have at our in person conferences. The Conference Planning Committee wants to hear from you! They want to know what

day of the week would work best for you to do virtual sessions. Click [here](#) to respond to the survey.



## 2020 Legislative Special Session

The Kansas Legislature convened on June 3 for the 2020 Special Session called by Governor Laura Kelly with the main goal to address changes to the Kansas Emergency Management Act (KEMA) and extend the new emergency declaration. The Legislature spent nearly 24 hours before passing a comprehensive COVID relief bill, [HB 2016](#), and concluding the Special Session. The bill includes the

following major components:

- Oversight of the COVID relief (CARES Act) federal funds remains under the Governor's authority, with final approval from the State Financial Council (SFC), made up of House and Senate leadership and chaired by the Governor.
- Extension of the current emergency declaration until September 15th, 2020, with potential for extensions on a rolling 30-day basis with SFC approval.
- Requires the Governor to obtain approval from the Kansas State Board of Education in order to issue an executive order related to school closures.

HB 2016 also extends a handful of the Governor's Executive Orders (EOs) to January 26th, 2021. These include the EOs related to telemedicine, temporary emergency license, temporary licensure measures for additional healthcare providers, and curbside liquor. Governor Laura Kelly signed HB 2016 into law on June 8th.



## OHK Staff Discuss Medicaid Expansion and Oral Health

Today Oral Health Kansas staff took part in a virtual Town Hall meeting with the [Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#). We discussed why oral health and dental services are an important aspect of Medicaid Expansion. If Medicaid Expansion was approved in Kansas, approximately 150,000 adults would gain access to the limited dental services available in the Medicaid program and the more

extensive services available through the three managed care organizations. Watch the recorded Town Hall event on the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas Facebook page, and be sure to like the page to follow their advocacy to Expand KanCare.

<https://www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare/>

Oral Health Kansas staff has been attending the virtual National Oral Health Conference virtually. This is typically the largest national public oral health conference, but like all other events this year it had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday, June 5th the virtual sessions continued for a second week. Below are some highlights from the sessions.

### **Moving from Disparities and Implicit Bias to Equity and Culturally Competent Practices.**

The seminar focused on exploring barriers consumers face in dental care as a result of provider and institutional implicit bias. The presenters took note of the scarcity of culturally competent practices used in service delivery settings.

### **Community Water Fluoridation in the Age of Skepticism**

Misleading articles and anti-fluoridation organizations are abundant on the internet in social media, and they have sparked a new wave of hesitation about water fluoridation. This presentation reviewed the history of community water fluoridation, the most recent evidence that continues to support this powerful cavity-fighting intervention, and the impact of storytelling on audiences who are hesitant about fluoridation.

### **Special Needs Patients' Ability to Access Dental Services and Willingness of Dentists to Treat Them**

Dental providers historically have limited training or experience in treating people with disabilities and the wide variety of medical, behavioral, and emotional conditions people with disabilities bring to the dental office. This presentation shared findings from two research studies conducted by the [Oral Health Workforce Center](#).

### [Contributions of General and Specialty Dentists to the Provisions of Oral Health Services for People with Special Health Care Needs](#)

There is a lot of information in this study, and the link provides more details.

Key findings:

- Exposure to the complexities of treatment of people with disabilities appears to be critical at all levels of dental education.
- Training or experience working with people with disabilities through continuing education, community involvement, didactic education, and clinical training in residency programs had the highest impact on the provision of dental care for “many” people with disabilities.
- Barriers to providing care included practice accommodations, pharmacologic interventions, not being a Medicaid provider, and not being asked to provide care for people with disabilities

### [Parental Perspectives on Access to Oral Health Care for Children with Special Needs](#)

The objective of this study was to highlight parents' views of the unique access barriers for their children with special needs.

Key findings:

- Current efforts to connect children with disabilities to oral health services are important policy initiatives to reduce oral health disparities.
- Parents note that cost and insurance status are the key barriers they face in helping their children access dental care. This suggests that policy strategies to reduce financial barriers to oral health services for families with children with disabilities are important.
- Making changes in structural barriers such as dental practice hours, distance to dental providers, and availability of dental providers should be prioritized in order to improve access to dental care for children with disabilities.

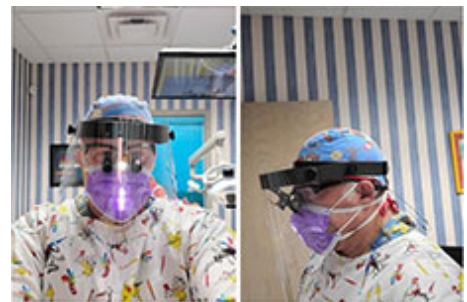


## Kansas Mission Of Mercy 2021 Postponed

The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation recently announced they have decided to postpone the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) that was scheduled to be in Wichita, Kansas in early 2021. It was determined that, at this point, there just isn't enough information on how to safely proceed with a clinic of that size due to the amount of aerosols produced, social distancing, and the number of people in the arena at one time. They are looking for later dates in 2021. You can view more information on their [website](#).



We know the experience of going to the dental office has changed for consumers. We want to share how much it has changed for our trusted dental professionals. Thanks to Dr. John Fales and so many other dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants who are working hard every day to keep us healthy. Dr. Fales is showing off his new face shield and sharing all of the protective equipment he must don every day. Thank you, Dr. Fales!



## Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

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.



**Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.**

## Follow Us



**Oral Health Kansas** • 712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 412 Topeka, KS 66603  
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)  
Copyright 2020