

## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

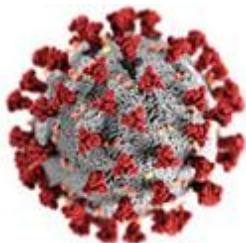
The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

June 16, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 23



## Legislators End State Of Emergency In Kansas

On Tuesday, June 15, Kansas legislative leaders decided to end the Covid-19 state of emergency by midnight last night. A new law enacted this year required the legislative leaders to sign off on any extensions that had been in place since March 2020. Governor Kelly asked legislative leaders to keep the state of emergency in place through July 15 in order to allow the state to continue receiving federal pandemic assistance and to use the National Guard for vaccinations, testing, and

distributing protective equipment. Legislative leaders said it is time for the state to return to normal.

Although the state of emergency has ended, Covid-19 has not. Last week in a press briefing with Dr. Lee Norman, the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, stated “The trend line is doing really quite well, but we have to remember we have still about 100 - or slightly more - new cases every day,” said Dr. Lee Norman. “We still have one to three deaths every day”. Read Dr. Norman’s interview [here](#). Over 5100 Kansans have died since the start of the pandemic.

Here are steps to continue to stay healthy:

- Get vaccinated.
- Wear a mask to cover your nose and mouth. Local officials will still have the authority to issue mask mandates and other health orders.
- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water.
- Stand six feet apart from others.
- Avoid large crowds.
- Clean surfaces daily that are touched often.



## Help Define Kansas' Broadband Priorities

The importance of broadband internet access became clear to all Kansans when the pandemic began last year. Broadband made everything from school and telework to grocery shopping and healthcare possible, but not every Kansan had access to the internet services they needed to remain healthy and connected to the services and supports they needed.

Researchers at the University of Kansas are conducting a study of internet access and affordability in Kansas. KU’s new statewide survey includes a speed test and gathers data about the availability, quality, and affordability of internet service in Kansas. The information provided will help the researchers identify geographic regions as well as populations that lack reliable and affordable internet access and create policy recommendations that will benefit Kansas. Future implementation of teledental services in Kansas depends on people have access to affordable and reliable internet service..

The survey takes about 15 minutes and includes an internet speed test to connect survey data with broadband speed information. Please consider taking the survey at <https://ipsr.ku.edu/broadband/kansas.shtml> from the location of your internet service.

The survey can be taken on a computer or smartphone. Additional details about this study are available on [KU's website](#).



## Men's Health Month

June is Men's Health Month and this week began Men's Health Week. What a way to shine light to the men in our lives and sharing how important their health is to their family! According to [Delta Dental](#), men are less likely than women to seek preventive dental care and may neglect their oral health for years. Some men tend to ignore their health or take good care of themselves because they think of themselves as invincible - [Superman Syndrome](#).

We know the importance of everyone having a healthy mouth. Visit the dentist every six months and brush and floss at least twice a day not just before your appointment! Eat healthy foods and watch those sugary beverages. It may be fun to drink sugary beverages like soda and alcohol but they are acidic to our teeth and lead to tooth decay Also, don't forget to drink water to help wash away the sugar bugs and to help you stay hydrated during this hot summer!



## American Indian and Alaska Native Oral Health Issues and Resources

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors has a new website page with resources on American Indian and Alaska Native oral health issues and resources. American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) children are disproportionately affected by oral disease compared with the general population of American children and have limited access to professional oral health care. [Find out more](#) about AIAN and oral health!



## Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. More information will be provided [here](#).
- Arizona Oral Health Coalition, Gender Inclusivity Webinar [Facebook Live](#), June 21 at 3:00 p.m. CDT
- 2021 OPEN Academy, Connecting for Collective Action to Advance Equity and Systems Change, will be held on

June 23 - 25, with pre-conference offerings on June 22, and optional webinars to “set the stage” the week of June 14. Register [here](#).

- Kansas Mission of Mercy, July 23 - 24 in Wichita, Kansas. Find more information [here](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas, Virtual Conference, September 20 - 23, 2021. More information coming soon.



We are eager to announce another speaker for the virtual 2021 Conference on Oral Health! Barbie Vartanian, Executive Director for [Project Accessible Oral Health](#), a global initiative focused on improving the health equity of the more than 61 million individuals living with a

physical or intellectual disability. Barbie will be part of a panel to discuss serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The virtual 2021 Conference on Oral Health will be held November 4 and 5. We'll keep you posted!

## 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 fax [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)  
Copyright 2021