

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.

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Memorial Day Honors

This Memorial Day, we honored the men and women who died while serving in the military. We are proud to remember those who courageously gave their lives. Shortly after the Civil War, Memorial Day began as Decoration Day. "The reason for that is because it was a day on which Americans, South and in the North, would decorate the graves of soldiers who died in the Civil War," history professor Matthew

Dennis told NPR in 2005. It was a "vernacular, grassroots kind of expression of mourning. Read this story [here](#) to learn more about Memorial Day.



OHK Executive Director To Help Lead Discussion At OPEN Meeting

The Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) is hosting a virtual meeting later this month called the OPEN Academy. The event will provide a range of opportunities to build participants' collective capacity as agents of social change, deepen their understanding of the impact of structural racism on all people, and advance oral health for all. Participants also will provide input around OPEN's goals and strategic plans for the next three years. There will be numerous opportunities to connect and collaborate with leaders, advocates, clinicians, and others working in communities, states, and nationally to advance equitable oral health.

Each person who registers for the meeting will receive a free e-book. One of the book choices is Dr. Jonathan Metzel's *Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland*. This book reviews recent policy history in Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee and discusses how people tend to vote against their own best interests. Oral Health Kansas' Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner will facilitate a book club discussion with the author on June 22.

Register for the OPEN Academy [here](#)



Seeking Volunteers For Online Dialogue

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is assisting the University of Pittsburgh, along with other partners, on a research project to develop guidelines for dentists treating acute dental pain. Once the guidelines are developed the team is selecting 5 implementation states to roll out a CE course for dentists and emergency department physicians about the guidelines; 5 control states will also be selected for comparison. All members of the public over 18 years of age may participate. Researchers are particularly interested in learning from people who have had dental surgery or experienced acute dental

pain. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the survey at this link:

https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cd7UavlpRMQuEGG

For more information click [here](#):



Surgeon General Report To Be Released In Fall

As a twenty-year follow-up to the seminal Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) will release the new report Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges in the fall of 2021. The report will illuminate new directions in the prevention and treatment of oral disease; identify disparities and inequalities in oral health care; and

propose innovative strategies for ensuring all Americans share equally in the benefits of oral health. Any questions can be directed to: oralhealthreport@nih.gov.



ADA Call for Funds To Support Community Water Fluoridation

The ADA is asking Congress to include state and local water fluoridation systems in legislation to revitalize the nation's infrastructure.

In an [April 30 letter](#) to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, ADA President Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D., and Executive Director Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., urged lawmakers to include a "one-time supplemental infusion of funds" to help states and local municipalities revitalize their water fluoridation infrastructure. The new tablet fluoridation technology is less expensive for municipalities to purchase and maintain and it also uses less floor space, allowing water agencies to repurpose areas that traditional fluoridation systems would ordinarily occupy. The new technology also extends the benefits of water fluoridation to rural communities, where the cost of traditional fluoridation systems has been prohibitive. The letter ended with, "Doing so will reduce the need for costly dental care, particularly in areas where the cost of community water fluoridation has traditionally been prohibitive. A sudden demand for this new technology may also inspire companies hire new workers for its manufacture."

When your saliva has fluoride in it from sources like toothpaste or water, your teeth are able to take it in. Once in your enamel, fluoride teams up with calcium and phosphate there to

create the most powerful defense system your teeth can have to prevent cavities.

Read more about the letter [here](#).



Upcoming Events

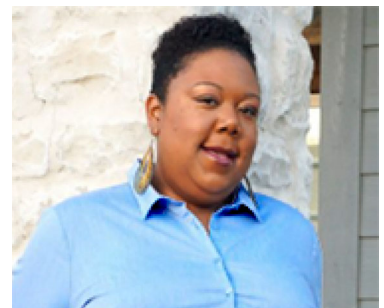
- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. More information will be provided [here](#).
- 2021 OPEN Academy, Connecting for Collective Action to Advance Equity and Systems Change, will be held on June 23 - 25, with pre-conference offerings on June 22, and optional 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.



Congratulations to Dental Champion Amber Sellers on announcing her run for City Commission in Lawrence! Amber is a former Oral Health Kansas board member and was a member of the fourth Dental Champions Leadership Program class. The



Dental Champions program is designed to prepare people to play leadership roles in their communities and across the state.

Amber’s willingness to step up to run for office is a clear sign that she is a Dental Champion! Read more about her candidacy [in this story](#) from the Lawrence Journal-World.



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.

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