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DentaQuest Leaders issue statement on fluoridation

This week DentaQuest Chief Dental Officer John Luther, DDS, and DentaQuest Foundation Director of Policy and Programs Mike Monopoli, DMD, issued a statement about the importance of community water fluoridation to oral health. Drs. Luther and Monopoli emphasized that the new Health and Human Services recommendation about the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water is "the best evidence available to clarify the amount of fluoride needed to achieve the optimal amount of tooth decay prevention."

The DentaQuest officials further point out, "After more than 70

Kansas Legislature continues past 100 days

The Kansas Legislature traditionally meets for no more than 90 days each year, and the key responsibility is to pass a budget for the state fiscal year that begins each July 1. As of today, the Legislature has met for 104 days, and they have not yet passed a budget that balances. The state budget has a deficit of at least \$400 million because tax receipts are falling far below state expenses, including Medicaid, public schools and public safety such as law enforcement and prisons.

In 2012, the Legislature and Governor Brownback passed a plan to eliminate income taxes for over 300,000 LLCs and dramatically reduce personal income tax rates. The state's tax collections have been falling since then. The Legislature has been in a stalemate since the end of April about how to fill the budget hole. A myriad tax plans have been considered and rejected over the past two weeks. This week, budget committee members began talking about across-the-board cuts for every state expenditure of 5.7%. This concept is being considered at the same time tax proposals continue to be debated.

In January, Governor Brownback proposed increases in the cigarette and other tobacco products tax rates, and Oral Health Kansas testified in favor. At this point, any conversation

years of studying fluoridation in drinking water, it is clear that this practice is one of the most important health-promoting policies that a community can offer all its residents." Read more in [the article from Drs. Luther and Monopoli](#). Learn more about community water fluoridation in Kansas at www.fluoridekansas.org.

Dear Abby addresses dental care in nursing homes

This week the popular advice column *Dear Abby* addressed access to dental care in nursing homes. A concerned daughter wrote about her mother with Alzheimers who is not receiving adequate care in her long-term care facility. Abby wrote back and explained how many states have dental hygienists that deliver care in a variety of settings including long-term care facilities. She added that there is a growing need for a larger dental workforce. [Read the full article here](#).



June 10 Webinar Oral Health for Older Adults

June 10, 2015 | 1:00 PM EST

Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) is hosting a webinar focused on the role of nursing and the

about tobacco taxes are at much lower rates than originally proposed by the governor. He had proposed a \$1.50 per pack increase on cigarette taxes, but the current debate would raise the rate by only \$0.50 per pack. Read more about the likelihood of a tobacco tax increase and the reaction of health advocates to the proposed lower rate in a [Kansas Health Institute News Service June 2, 2015, story](#).

The Kansas Health Institute News Service published [a story on May 28, 2015](#), detailing the key reasons the Legislature is struggling to pass a tax plan that can plug the budget hole and help them adjourn soon. The longest Kansas Legislative Session was 107 days in 2002. If the Legislature meets past Saturday, they will beat that record. Because of the way the calendar is set, if an FY 2016 budget is not passed by this weekend, state employees will be furloughed without pay. Details about House Democrats' plan to stop employee furloughs are in a [Kansas Public Radio story aired today](#).



Join In: Kansas Foundation for Medical Care Quality Forum

Registration is now open for the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care's annual Quality Forum which will be held on July 31, 2015 in Wichita, KS.

As part of their work in advancing healthcare quality, the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) has been tasked with the effort

interprofessional team in the oral care of elders in long term care settings. This webinar is open to both NICHE and non-NICHE members. Participants will receive 1.0 contact hour for participating in this webinar. **Register today!**



Sugary Drink Display available this summer!

The Oral Health Kansas sugary drink display has been traveling around the state, making stops this month in six communities, including the Neosho County Health Fair and the State Capitol.

Reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more **on our website** and **email Sarah** if you are interested in hosting the display!



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to increase Kansas adolescent vaccination rates for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, which remain among the lowest in the nation. The fastest growing segment of oral cancer patients is young, healthy, nonsmoking individuals due to the connection to the HPV virus. The documentary "Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic" will be available to attendees of the Quality Forum the evening of July 30 and is open to community members. This film highlights the journey of five women whose lives have been forever changed and interrupted by HPV, one of the most widespread, misunderstood and potentially dangerous epidemics. Attendance to this event is free and the screening will begin at 6:00 pm at the Wichita Marriott. In addition, one of the breakout sessions of Quality Forum will feature a panel of experts to discuss the need for improving vaccination across the state and reducing cancer and other associated diseases. For more information, please contact Rachel Linn at **rlinn@kfmc.org**.

For more information about this event, **[click here](#)**.

Ignite Transformation!
Advancing Positive Health Outcomes
Through Quality Care

QUALITY FORUM
Friday, July 31, 2015
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Wichita Marriott
9100 Corporate Hills Drive
Wichita, KS

REGISTER NOW!

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