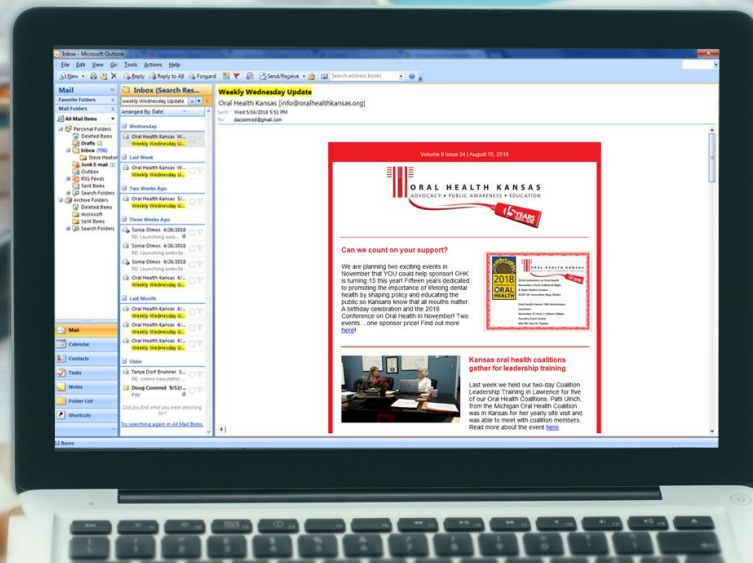




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## 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](#).

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## Sharing Our Impact

This year, we have been sharing many of the ways Oral Health Kansas is making an impact on Kansans. While many of our regular activities have had to change this year, the impact we have made and are making remains significant. Each year over 30 organizations across the state share our sugary drink display with hundreds of people. Staff provide workshops for 500-800 people every year. So far this year, we've provided workshops for 300 people on virtual platforms! We participate in two dozen conferences each year sharing our resources



for consumers and professionals. Eleven hundred people follow us on Facebook; 280 follow us on Twitter; 107 follow us on Instagram; and over 1600 receive our Weekly Wednesday Update. In so many ways, we reach out to thousands of people to ensure they know about the importance of oral health in their overall health.

This year we have nine funders, but most provide less than \$15,000 and we have no core operations support. During this COVID-19 crisis, funding for advocacy and education

organizations like ours is shrinking rapidly. We appreciate the support all of our supporters provide. You help shape our work and expand our impact. Please consider making a gift to ensure we are able to continue advocating for change and developing educational resources during the COVID crisis. You can learn more and make a contribution at [oralhealthkansas.org/Donate.htm](https://oralhealthkansas.org/Donate.htm) Thank you!



## Nominations Deadline Coming Up

The Excellence in Oral Health Awards are awards given to someone or an organization who is doing a good deed and improving oral health in Kansas. Can you nominate more than one person? Yes of course!

The categories for nominations are:

- Outstanding Organization
- Outstanding Dental Hygiene Clinician
- Outstanding Dentist Award
- Outstanding Community Leader
- Bob Bethel Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer
- Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, September 11 by 5pm. Find more information [here](#)!

This year, we will honor the award winners during the virtual Conference on Oral Health. More details to come!



## Day of Action: Raising the Profile of Oral Health in the 2020 Election

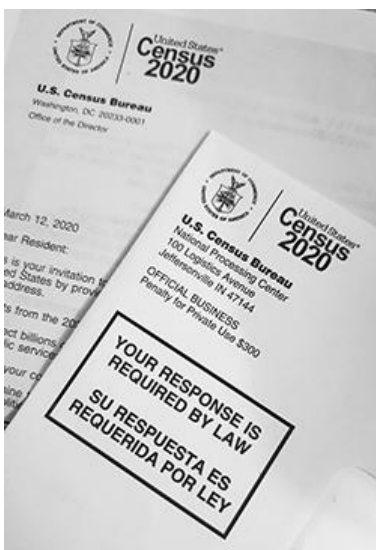
Join Oral Health Kansas and oral health advocates from around the country on September 2nd for a Day of Action to raise the profile of oral health in the context of the 2020 Election. Elections are an excellent opportunity to build relationships with candidates before they potentially enter office and to educate them on the need to address oral health during their term.

The Day of Action is being hosted by the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) and includes several avenues to get

involved including:

- Join the Kick-off meeting on September 1st at 2PM CST: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/8684655884>
- Email your candidates
- Join the twitter chat @ 1PM CST
- Share your story on social media
- Commit to hosting a virtual gathering
- Complete the "Ready, Set, VOTE" template

Additional information can be found in [this guide](#) that provides templates and sample messages to make it easy for you to participate in the Day of Action! We hope you will join us in elevating oral health!



## Complete Your 2020 Census

Filling out the 2020 Census takes just a few minutes. Low participation can result in less funding for healthcare, education and housing to name just a few of the ways it can help us.

Did you know an undercount in Kansas means that your community could miss out on approximately \$52,466.40 in federal funding (over 10 years) for each household that is missed in the 2020 Census? That's \$5,246.64 per year or \$437.22 a month! It is vital to Kansas' access to federal funding that each household completes the 2020 Census by September 30, 2020! Don't delay, make Kansas Count. Complete your census online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020.



Oral Health Kansas could not make progress around oral health without advocates like YOU! We invite you to continue making a difference by

advocating for teledentistry!



Last month, Oral Health Kansas joined Kansas Dental Association and Community Care Network of Kansas in sending a letter to Governor Laura Kelly requesting an Executive Order to authorize the use of teledentistry through at least January 2021 to ensure Kansans still have access to necessary dental services to stay healthy. The Governor's Office has not taken action on this yet, and we need YOUR help to elevate the issue!

Teledentistry is defined as the use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry. It allows dental providers to assess and triage patient concerns through technologies such as phone and video. Teledentistry was authorized at the start of the COVID-19 crisis but the coverage ended on June 30. We are asking the Governor's Office to issue an Executive Order to authorize teledentistry through January 2021. [View OHK's letter to the Governor here.](#)

### How can you make a difference?

Fill out this short form: [https://governor.kansas.gov/questions\\_form/](https://governor.kansas.gov/questions_form/)



## 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



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