

## 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](#).

### September 2, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 35

## Nominations Deadline Coming Up!

The Excellence in Oral Health Awards are given to someone or an organization who is doing a good deed and improving oral health in Kansas. These are difficult times and honoring someone for their work is a simple way to say THANK YOU!

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

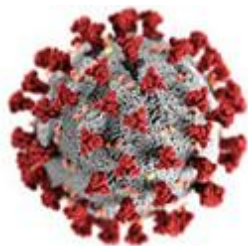
The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, September 11 by 5pm. Find more information [here!](#)

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



## Medicaid Policy Change Provides Flexibility

Earlier this summer, Oral Health Kansas responded to a COVID-19 need by requesting a small change in the Medicaid program. The Kansas Medicaid program has covered certain x-rays and cleanings every six months, but COVID-19 has disrupted people's ability to visit the dentist on a typical schedule. We are pleased to announce that the Kansas Medicaid program is now allowing codes D0120, D1110, and D1120 to be billed twice a year. This slight change allows consumers to visit the dentist for cleanings two times during the year, rather than strictly every six months. The [policy change](#) went into effect on September 1, but the effective date may vary slightly among the three KanCare managed care organizations.



## New! Dental Settings Guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the guidance for dental settings during COVID19. The guidance was updated on August 28, 2020. As dental offices continue to open, there are recommended safety precautions to take. Here are just a few:

- Updated the definition of fever to either measured temperature > 100 degrees or subjective fever to align with CDC's [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#).

- In areas with moderate to substantial community transmission, during patient encounters with patients not suspected of SARS-CoV-2 infection, CDC recommends that dental healthcare personnel (DHCP):
  - Wear eye protection in addition to their facemask to ensure the eyes, nose, and mouth are all protected from exposure to respiratory secretions during patient care encounters, including those where splashes and sprays are not anticipated.
  - Use an N95 respirator or a respirator that offers an equivalent or higher level of protection during aerosol generating procedures.
- Added language that protective eyewear (e.g., safety glasses, trauma glasses) with gaps between glasses and the face likely do not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays.
- Included additional guidance on physical distancing and how to respond to SARS-CoV-2 exposures among DHCP and others.

You can find a full list of guidelines on the Centers for Disease and Prevention [website](#).



## During COVID-19 School Nurses Are Critical In Oral Health

Poor oral health can have damaging effects on children while in school. The percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 - 19 with untreated tooth decay is twice as high for children from low-income families (25%) compared with children from higher-income households (12%). Association of State and Territorial

Dental Directors (ASTDD) and the National Association of School Nurses have collaborated to develop some [resources](#) to assure that children receive dental screenings/referrals during the pandemic. As schools begin to reopen, school nurses, with or without assistance from outside organizations or individuals, will play an essential role in identifying children in need of dental care. Click [here](#) to view considerations for school nurses as students return to school.

---

The [Kansas Public Health Association \(KPHA\)](#) is celebrating their 100th year anniversary this year! KPHA has been influencing policies and setting priorities in public health for Kansas since 1920 and is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the



state, representing more than 250 members from over 20 occupations/organizations. The Kansas Public Health Association was recently featured in [The](#)



[Nation's Health](#), a newspaper that is put out monthly by the American Public Health Association. Consider becoming a [member](#) of KPHA today!



## 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