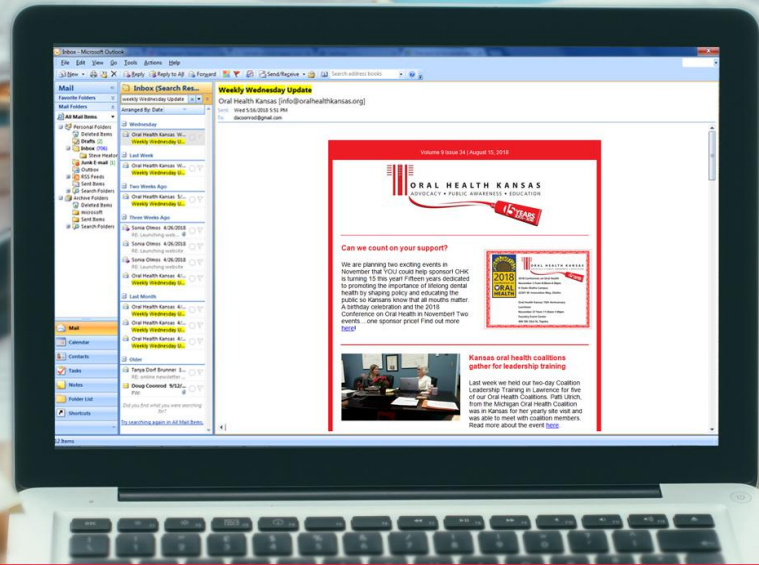




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

September 9, 2020

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Sponsor And Exhibit Opportunities Open!

The 2020 Conference on Oral Health will be virtual, but it will feature many of the familiar features, including the popular exhibits. Conference sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are now open. This year's conference will be on the mornings of October 30 and November 6 and will feature state and national speakers discussing vulnerabilities in

dental care access and opportunities for improvement. We are excited this year to welcome Kansas Poet Laureate Huascar Medina as a special guest speaker. The virtual conference offers the opportunity for more people than ever before to participate, and Oral Health Kansas welcomes companies and organizations that want to share their products and resources with dental practitioners, students, public health professionals, advocates, and educators. Learn about the opportunities to sponsor [here](#), and contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org for more information.



Nomination Deadline This Week!

The Excellence in Oral Health Awards nomination deadline is Friday, September 11 by 5pm. This is an opportunity to show someone that her or his work does not go unnoticed. What a way to display someones hard work on oral health. This year's winners will be asked to record a 2-3 minute video accepting the award. We will honor the award winners during the virtual [Conference on Oral Health](#).

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

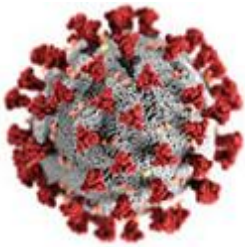
[Excellence in Oral Health Award Nomination Form](#)
[Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award Nomination Form](#)

ADA American Dental Association®

Access To Hospital ORs Difficult For Many Pediatric Dentists

An article recently published in the American Dental Association's (ADA) News highlighted the need for increased access to hospital and ambulatory surgical center operating rooms (ORs) for dentists across the country. The problem, which has existed for decades, has only been exacerbated by the current COVID-19 pandemic. ADA's research division, the Health

Policy Institute, has been collecting data to illustrate the issue. In August they found that more than half of pediatric dentists surveyed reported a negative difference in scheduling OR time. Of those with difficulty accessing OR time, 68% shared that increased volume of other cases deemed more medically necessary was the primary reason hospitals were limiting their access to the OR. Delayed access to dental care can have a significant negative impact on their patients, as their oral health status just keeps getting worse. The ADA and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recognize the current barrier in access to care and are working together to advocate for change. The full article can be found [here](#). This year Oral Health Kansas is advocating for a long overdue increase in the Medicaid rate for a dental hospital call.



Slower Return To “Business As Usual” For Dental Public Health Settings

The American Dental Association (ADA) hosted a webinar on September 1st to discuss the question, “Will COVID-19 weaken the dental care safety net?” The webinar shared data, collected from dentists across the country, showing that more private practices reported “business as usual” compared to public health settings. Although nearly 98% of dental practices in the US were open as of the week of August 10th, dentists in public health settings reported continued lower patient volume than usual. As of August 10th, 17.4% of dentists in public health settings reported they were “open and business as usual”, compared to 47.6% of dentists in private practice. The ADA’s data also showed that patient volume is slightly lower in practices located in lower income areas. While Kansas-specific data about dental public health settings was not available in the ADA’s report, they do report that [as of the week of August 24](#) a third of dental offices in Kansas are still seeing a lower volume of patients. The webinar also featured a panel discussion from dentists with public health experience to better understand the issues impacting the dental safety net.

Watch the full webinar [here](#). A list of the safety net dental clinics in Kansas can be found [here](#).

Election Day Is Right Around The Corner!

At this point in the election season, you are most likely being inundated with campaign advertisements, calls, and emails, but have you registered to vote or submitted your mail-in ballot application yet?! Election day is right around the corner and you don’t want to miss out on the opportunity for your vote to count and for your voice to be heard! With COVID-19,



Photo by Element5 Digital on [Unsplash](#)

elections may look a little different for you this year, but we are here to help make voting easy and safe! Oral Health Kansas compiled all of the important election information into [this one pager](#)! We strongly encourage you to request and submit your mail-in ballot as early as possible this year to ensure your vote counts!



Job Opportunities At Community Health Center

[Heartland Community Health Center](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) seeking to hire a dental assistant and dental hygienist for their Lawrence clinic. Click here for more information about the [dental assistant position](#) or the [dental hygienist position](#).



Congratulations to Dr. Marsha Pyle, Dean of the UMKC School of Dentistry, on her retirement this month. She has been an important leader in the oral health community in both Kansas and Missouri since she began her role as Dean in 2009. Dr. Pyle is a tireless advocate for the oral health of older people, and she shared her insight at our Conference on Oral Health a few years ago. We appreciate her service and wish her all the best as she begins her next chapter as the [Scholar in Residence at the American Dental Education Association](#) (ADEA).



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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