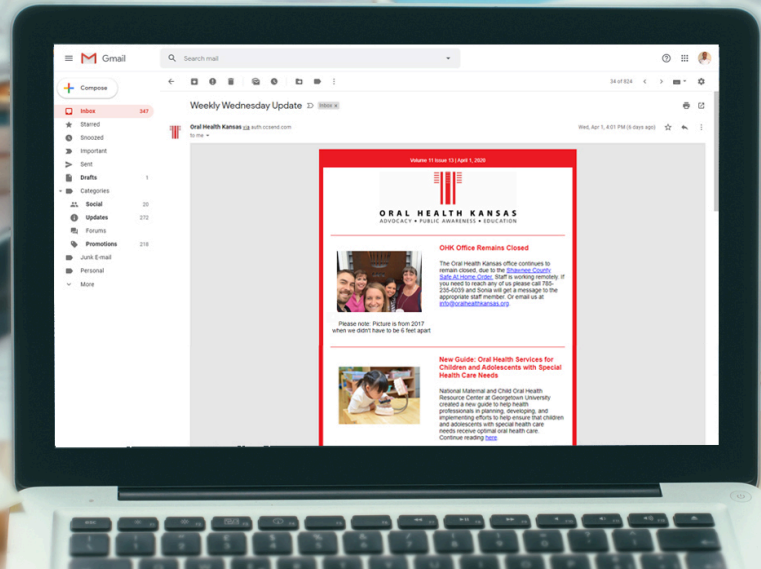




WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

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](#).

September 30, 2026

Volume 17, Issue 38

Scan the QR code



or click here to
sign up for our
[Weekly
Wednesday
Update](#).



Grab Your Spot at the Conference on Oral Health

The Conference on Oral Health will be held on lucky Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus. The annual conference brings together leaders, advocates, dental professionals, clinic staff, professors and students to spark meaningful conversations and drive action on improving oral health in Kansas. Participants are from Kansas as well as out of state!

We still have spots open for exhibitors but slots are filling up fast! This is a great opportunity to market your organization, share your resources and reach people from all parts of the state. Sign up to exhibit and you will have access to:

- Two complimentary spots with access to all conference sessions and meal functions and speakers
- A 5-foot undraped table in exhibitor hallway with two chairs
- Complimentary internet access

We're also still looking for sponsors! Sponsorship puts a brand's name in front of our participants through signage, printed materials, verbal recognition throughout the conference and the event website. Show participants you are invested in improving the oral health of Kansas. Find sponsorship opportunities and more information on our [conference website](#).

Conference attendee registration fees:

Regular Attendee Rate: \$125 | Walk-in Attendee Rate: \$150

Regular Student Rate: \$20 | Walk-in Student Rate: \$25

Register [here](#)! If you do not have an account with the Iris conference platform, you will need to create an account.

Hotel Information: We have a hotel block at Courtyard by Marriott Kansas City Olathe 141.00 USD - 149.00 USD per night. Book your room at [this link](#). Last day to book is Thursday, October 29, 2026.



Kansas Medicaid: New Rates and Provider Perspectives

Join us for our next webinar on **Tuesday, October 13 at 12:00pm CST**. Learn about the new Kansas Medicaid dental rates and what they mean for providers and access to care. We'll share results from the provider rate survey, including the priorities and concerns voiced by Kansas dental providers. The rate increase represents an important investment in oral health access during a challenging budget year and reflects the Kansas Legislature's commitment to preserving the progress that has been made. This webinar highlights the collaborative efforts underway to listen to providers and use their voices to help strengthen the Medicaid dental system.

Click [here](#) to register. This is a great opportunity for one free CE.

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Dental care is an important part of overall health for everyone, but for individuals with Down Syndrome, regular dental visits and good oral home care are especially important. An increased risk of oral health



challenges, like gum disease and bite problems, mean monitoring and early intervention are critical. However, sometimes visiting the dentist can be tricky.

Last month, MaryAnne Lynch Small, Policy Manager, presented My Dental Care Passport[®] to the [Gateway Down Syndrome Association](#) based in St. Louis, MO. [My Dental Care Passport[®]](#) is a communication tool designed to improve the dental office visit for people with disabilities by letting individuals and their

families/caregivers voice their specific needs. Sharing important information, like, how a person communicates, sensory likes and dislikes, what went well in past visits, and what part of an appointment might be harder for them, allows the dental team to get to know the individual as a person and best prepare for a successful visit.

My Dental Care Passport[®] is unique to the individual. You can share what you want the dental team to know about you. For dental teams, it offers insights to help provide person-centered care and helps build confidence in caring for that individual. By working together and learning more about each other, we can create a smoother, more inclusive dental experience for everyone.

My Dental Care Passport[®] is freely available to use both in and out of Kansas. You can find My Dental Care Passport[®] and handy Passport guides for users and dental teams [here](#).

We are grateful to the Gateway Down Syndrome Association for inviting us to share strategies to make visiting the dentist are more successful experience for everyone.



My Dental Care Passport Poster

Education Manager, Abby Richwine, shared the [My Dental Care Passport[®]](#) during a Poster Session at the Community Care Network of Kansas. This opportunity allowed Abby to share with attendees how the My Dental Care Passport[®] has evolved and has helped many individuals in their dental offices. My Dental Care Passport[®] is designed to improve the dental office visit for people with disabilities by letting individuals and their families/caregivers voice their specific needs. Sharing important information, for example, how a person

likes to communicate, what they liked in past dentist visits, and what parts of the appointment might be hard for them, helps break down communication barriers and allows the dental team to make changes to the dental office and appointment plan before the person even arrives. This helps make the visit to the dentist better for everyone!



National Women's Health and Fitness Day

Today is National Women's Health and Fitness Day, the nation's largest annual health promotion event for women of all ages. Women face oral health considerations that shift across life stages in ways that are often overlooked in general fitness and wellness messaging. Hormonal changes affect the mouth. Fluctuations in estrogen and progesterone

during puberty, menstruation, pregnancy, and menopause can increase gum sensitivity and the risk of gum disease. Pregnancy in particular raises the risk of pregnancy gingivitis and gum disease. During pregnancy this has been linked to preterm birth and low birth weight. It's important to visit the dentist even while pregnant. Yes, it's safe to see the dentist while pregnant and keep up with your oral health by brushing twice a day and flossing. Also, nutrition and fitness habits overlap with oral health. Drink plenty of water and limit sugary drinks and snacks which can contribute to whether or not you maintain a healthy mouth. [Healthy Snacks Limit Acid Attacks](#) one pager provides helpful tips. Find more great tips on our [Consumer Resources](#) page.



Upcoming Events

- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- **Webinar:** Rutgers University offering Perinatal Oral Health ECHO Series webinar. Check out the list of series [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Medicare: Expansion of Dental Services, hosted by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on October 8 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Next Making Medicaid Work for You webinar series is on October 13 at 12:00pm. Registration information coming soon.
- **Webinar:** Substance Use Disorders and Dentistry, hosted by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on October 22 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Event:** Community Care Network of Kansas annual conference, September 23-25 in Manhattan, Kansas. Learn more [here](#).
- **Event:** Kansas Public Health Association Conference, October 5 - 6, 2026 in Manhattan. Click [here](#) for information.
- **Event:** 2026 Conference on Oral Health will be **Friday, November 13** at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park. Click [here](#) for information.



Thank you to our current 2026 Conference on Oral Health sponsors! Your partnership makes a difference bringing oral health awareness to all communities.



The sponsors are below:

- Delta Dental of Kansas - Platinum
- Health Forward Foundation - Silver
- United Healthcare Community Plan - Silver
- Healthy Blue - Bronze
- REACH Healthcare Foundation - Bronze

If you are interested in sponsoring, click here to see the sponsorship or exhibitor opportunities. If these options don't fit, let's talk and see what does. Email Sonia at solmos@oralhealthkansas.org.



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them! We only have a limited amount so please sign up soon if you're interested in reserving one. Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

Follow Us



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