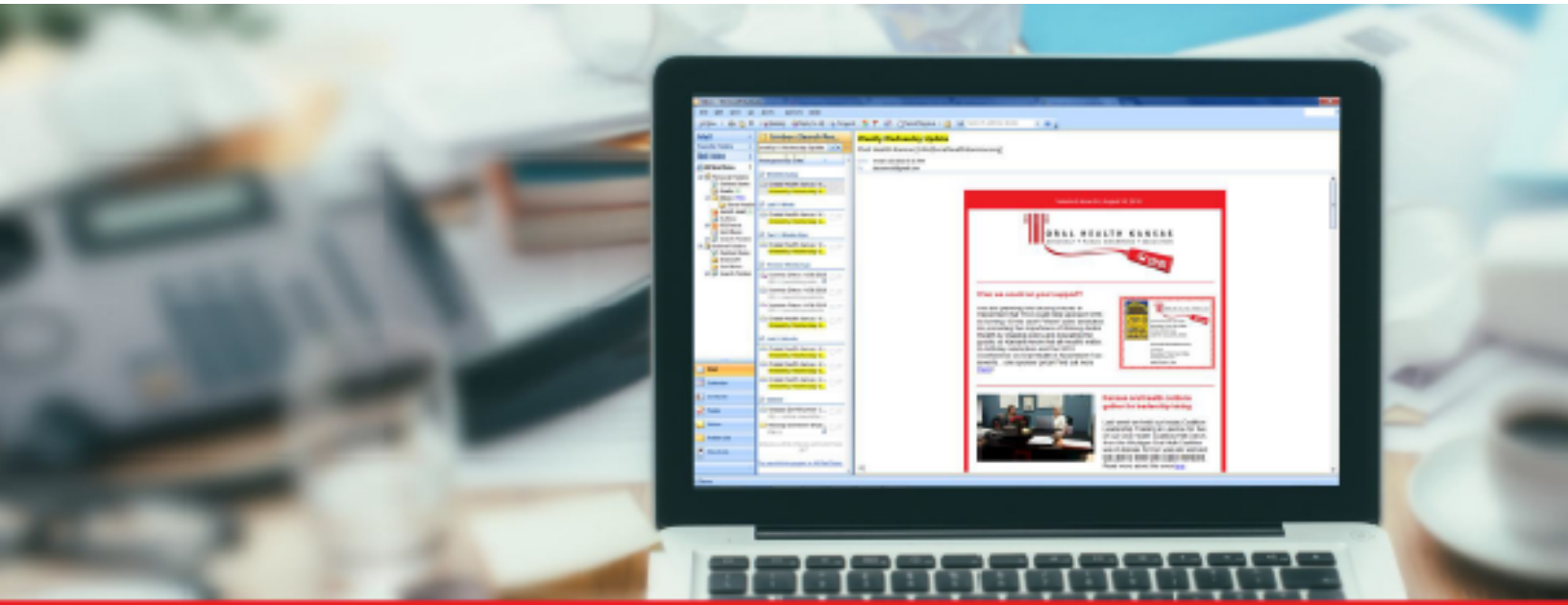




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

June 8, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 23



Thirsty for Health Visits with Kansas Schools

[Thirsty for Health](#) (TFH) team members were on the road in Wichita last week visiting with Kansas school staff and administrators at the USA Kansas annual conference. They shared how important it is for students to have access to clean

water to help with hydration and staying alert in school and many of the school staff agreed! Having water bottle filling stations in schools makes it easier for students to choose water instead of a sugary beverage and the TFH team would like to help with that. If you are a staff member in a Kansas school or a community member who wants to learn more about [Thirsty for Health](#), you can reach us at thirstyforhealthkansas@gmail.com or call 785.235.6039.



Nominate an Oral Health Advocate

Awards winners for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards will be recognized during the hybrid 2022 Conference on Oral Health on Friday, November 4. Nominate someone or an organization for all of the work they have done! Pick one category from the list below and submit a nomination.

- Outstanding Organization Award
- Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award
- Outstanding Dentist Award
- Outstanding Community Leader Award
- Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award
- Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award

Click [here](#) to view the award nomination forms and past winners.



Activities for Oral Health Month

School is out but learning still happens! During Oral Health Month, work with your children to stay on a schedule during the summer that includes brushing teeth at least twice a day and flossing. Brush with your child morning and night to establish a summer routine. [Here](#) is a calendar to use as a reminder. Add a sticker for each time your child brushes. Check out [Super Smiles for Your Child](#) for videos, songs and games to play.

Before school starts again, set up a dentist appointment for the family. A back-to-school checkup is important in fighting the most common chronic disease found in school-age children which are caries, more commonly known as cavities. Click [here](#) if you need help finding a dentist in your area.



Men's Health Month

Throughout June, Men's Health Month aims to encourage boys and men to take charge of their overall health by implementing healthy living decisions. Compared to women, men are less likely to seek preventive dental care and more likely to neglect their oral health.

- The average man is less likely to visit a dentist (61% of men compared with 67% of women), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- The average man is more likely to develop gum disease (11% of men compared with 6% of women), according to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.
- Men are about 40% less likely to brush their teeth after every meal, according to the Academy of General Dentistry.
- The average man will lose 5.4 teeth by age 72. (Smoking increases the average tooth loss to 12 teeth by age 72).

To the men in our lives, take time to take care of yourself! Prioritizing your oral health is a way of taking care of your overall health.



OPEN Together Again

The Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) is having their mid-year meeting July 11-14 in St. Louis. The first day, July 11th, will feature a pre-convening for OPEN leadership. Over the three days, 275 attendees will reconnect to network, build skills, and create action plans for 2022 and beyond. There is no registration fee for this event. Register by June 10, 2022 for guaranteed hotel accommodations. Click [here](#) for more information. We'll see you there!



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar:** A Conversation about the Flint Water Crisis: The Impact of Environmental Racism on Children and Families and How Art Plays a Role in Advocating for Action, June 13 at 1:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Oral Health Systems Change Webinar Series, Tuesday, June 14, 6-7:30pm CST and Thursday, June 30, 6-7:30pm CST. To sign up for June 14, Session 1, [click here](#) or sign up for June 30, Session 2, [click here](#).
- **Webinar:** How's America's Oral Health? Barriers to Care, Common Problems, and Ongoing Inequity, June 16, 12:00pm CST. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Webinar:** Leveraging Healthy People 2030 to Address Issues Affecting Children, Mothers and Families, June 22, 2:00pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Save the Date!** 16th Kansas Disability Caucus on August 10th-12th. Click [here](#) for details.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health:** Friday, November 4. Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception



We are excited to have MaryAnne Small, Master of Public Health student at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, working with us virtually until the fall. She was a community-based dentist in Glasgow before moving to New York City to pursue a public health education. She will be assisting with OHK's Dental Home for Kids Project. Let's welcome MaryAnne!





Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.



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.

Follow Us



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