

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](#).

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Legislative Priorities Becoming Clear

This week marks the third week of the Kansas legislative session. There are many new members of the Kansas House of Representatives, as well as new committee chairs. These first weeks of the session have been focused on getting new

members and the committees up to speed on the legislative process and current issues facing the legislature.

This week Governor Kelly delivered her [State of the State address](#), outlining her priorities for the year, including accelerating the pace of eliminating food sales tax in the state. Republican legislative leaders shared their priorities previously, and while they also focus on tax relief, the discussion of what taxes will be cut, by how much, and when will dominate the session this year. Governor Kelly and legislative leaders also noted the future of water in Kansas as an urgent policy matter for the state.

Oral Health Kansas is participating in advocacy around three issues so far this year. As the session progresses, other issues may be added to this list. 1. We are part of a coalition of organizations supporting the new [Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act](#). It is a bill that would ensure water in schools is lead-free by replacing existing water stations with filtered water stations and conducting ongoing testing of the water. The bill was introduced in the House Education Committee this week and is awaiting a hearing. As we learn more about the bill's future and opportunities to get involved in promoting it we will share with our readers.

2. Sales tax continues to be a major issue, and there are bills this year to eliminate sales tax on hygiene items. One [bill](#) in particular will eliminate the sales tax on several hygiene items, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouth wash, and floss. We will follow these hygiene sales tax bills and share opportunities to support the elimination of sales tax on dental hygiene items.

3. Our primary legislative goal this year is to secure funding to add denture coverage to the Kansas Medicaid program. The process to advocate for dentures will begin in two weeks with budget hearings in the House and Senate, and we will share opportunities to contact legislators and provide testimony. Check out our [denture advocacy webpage](#) to see the growing list of state and local organizations that support adding denture coverage. There is a [simple form](#) you can use to add your organization's name to the list of supporters.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the legislative session or any of these policy issues. Email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

Happy Fluoride Day!

Fluoride is a mineral found in soil, plants, and water. Research shows that fluoride strengthens tooth enamel, which helps protect your teeth from cavities. It also combats acids



in your mouth that can cause cavities. Fluoride can even rebuild the surface of your teeth in the early stages of tooth decay.

For generations, many communities have added fluoride to their public water (tap) supply to prevent tooth decay. To find out if your water contains fluoride, go to [My Waters Fluoride](#).

Fluoride is also added to most toothpaste brands and can be professionally applied using varnish or gel. To find out more, check out our Tip & Trick on [Fluoride for Healthy Teeth](#). [Spanish](#)



February is National Children's Dental Health Month

Every February National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) is celebrated and the theme for this year is Brush, Floss, Smile! This month is used to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and providers.

If you need help with ideas of things to do during Children's Dental Health Month, Oral Health Kansas staff put together [this list](#) of resources for you to choose from including how you can order free posters with this year's theme. We also still have [sugary drink displays](#) ready for reservations. If you wish to reserve a sugary drink display for February, they're free to reserve and we reimburse you for shipping it back to us. Reservations are for up to a month unless other arrangements have been made.



OHK Needs Your Help

Friends, we are still looking for individuals to join our Dental Care Access Lived Experience Advisory Group and need your help to share this information with your members and networks. The advisory group would share their Medicaid experience with us and if they had trouble getting dental care. The group will meet every quarter at a time that is most

convenient for the members and will receive a small stipend for their time. We would appreciate your help getting the word out.

Please share the Dental Care Access Lived Experience Advisory Group [form](#) or our flyer with anyone who may be interested. [Click here to download it.](#)

If you have questions, email dmenon@oralhealthkansas.org.



Early Bird Registration Ends Soon for NOHC

The National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) is "the premier meeting" for those interested in continuing education and networking opportunities within the discipline of Dental Public Health. The conference will be held on April 15 and 16 for Weekend Workshops and April 17 - 19 for the conference in Orlando, Florida. The early bird registration ends January 31. Click [here](#) to register. OHK staff will be attending! We'll see you there!



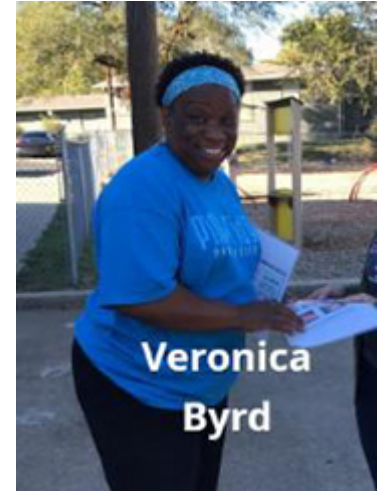
Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: Understanding and Providing Trauma-Informed Oral Health Care**, January 26, 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Healthy People 2030 Oral Health Promotional Series: Reducing Lifetime Tooth Decay Experience in Children & Adolescents**, February 1st 12:00 pm-1:00 pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar: Oral Health for Children - What You Should Know** (This is a Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing approved training). February 6, 6-7:30pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Class: Do you support breastfeeding families? Breastfeeding 101 Basics Class** February 16, 8:30m-12pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 24 and 25 in Topeka. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **2023 National Oral Health Conference**, April 17 - 19, 2023. Click [here](#) to register.



Last week Oral Health Kansas Board member Veronica Byrd and staff member Tanya Dorf Brunner gave a presentation to the Kansas Parents as Teachers Association. They shared information about how Parents

as Teachers programs can incorporate oral health education in their visits with families and how they can get involved in the Brush Book Bed program. Nearly 50 people across the state took part in this virtual training.



Veronica
Byrd



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Displays available for reservations. 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



Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567Topeka, KS 66604
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax • info@oralhealthkansas.org
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