



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.

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Dr. Bonnie Branson and John O'Malley

Up to 11 CE's

This week our series of pre-conference Friday lunch and learns begins! We kick off the series with a session about public oral health. Dr. Bonnie Branson will share insight about the roles of a dentist and dental hygienist in public health, how they can create a shared vision of optimal health and improve disparities in oral health, and how

coalitions can make an impact on access to care. John O'Malley is the creator of the National Oral Health Data Portal, and he will show participants how to explore this exciting new national data resource and how public health advocates can use it to find the data they need.

It's free to register for the pre-conference sessions. Click [here](#) for more information and the registration link.

The 2022 Conference on Oral Health, including the pre-conference series, will offer attendees up to 11 CEs, so don't miss out on this great educational opportunity!



Early Bird Registration Ends in ONE Week

We're happy to see the growing list of attendees for the 2022 Conference on Oral Health! But don't wait to register because the early bird registration fee ends on **Wednesday, October 12**. The early bird registration fee is currently \$99. After October 12, the registration fee will be \$125. This year's conference will be hybrid. All attendees, virtual and in person, will have access to the virtual Whova conference platform where you can find the agenda, network with other attendees and vendors.

Thank you Wichita State University's Office of University Conferences for helping with our logistics this year. You may see emails from Wichita State University as they help us promote the conference and send out information periodically. You'll be able to meet them at our conference as well.

Join us on November 4 at the Kansas State Olathe Campus, 22201 W. Innovation Dr., in Olathe. Click [here](#) to view the full agenda and [here](#) for the registration link!



Engaging Tribal Populations to Improve Oral Health Care

Monday, October 12 is Indigenous Peoples' Day, a holiday in the United States that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. The National Academy for State Health Policy recently finalized two oral health fact sheets, supported by a CareQuest Institute grant. The sheets detail case studies in [Oklahoma](#) and

[Arizona](#) on how improving access to oral health care is important for Indigenous populations who face stark inequities in care and outcomes.

Native American and Canadian Indigenous children are experiencing a health crisis of dental disease. In these communities, children are five times more likely than the general U.S. child population to have dental disease, and they have five times as many decayed or filled teeth (on average 5.8 in children ages 2 to 5).

A new American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy statement, "[Early Childhood Caries in Indigenous Communities](#)" in the June 2021 updates the 2011 recommendations, offering treatment guidance and urgency to address this dental health crisis.

In many Indigenous communities, dental disease can be found in 90% of young children, ages 3 - 5, which means that there is much more oral surgery required - 7 times more in children from communities with a high proportion of Indigenous peoples. Learn more [here](#).



Check your voter registration

You probably are starting to see more political ads on TV and in your mailbox. It's time to be sure you are ready for the election. Do you know who the candidates are this fall? And did you know there are two more constitutional amendments on the ballot in November? There is plenty of time to learn who and what is on the ballot on November 8 so you can be prepared to vote.

Ballotpedia is a website that shows you all the candidates in your district and shares details about the two constitutional amendments. Simply [enter your home address on the Ballotpedia website](#) to learn who and what will be on the ballot for your vote in November.

You can check your voter registration status, request an advance ballot, and check your polling location [at myvoteinfo.voteks.org](https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org). **The deadline to register to vote is October 18.**



OHK Visits with Students

The Oral Health Kansas team is out in force this fall sharing messages around policy and the importance of good oral health.

Kathy Hunt, our dental program director, spoke to the Public Health class at Washburn School of Nursing in Topeka. Nearly 70 students learned the latest and most important facts about oral health and its impact on overall health. We hope that they take what they learned and find ways to weave oral health into the fabric of their professional life.

Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner spoke to a class of 30 dental hygiene students at Concorde Career College about the role of advocacy in the dental community. She shared the reasons advocacy is necessary to improve access to dental care, especially for populations that experience the most disparities in access to care. We are always grateful for the opportunity to talk about oral health education and advocacy with future health and dental professionals.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: New Guidance on Infection Prevention**, October 13 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Water Fluoridation Summit** (in person and virtual), October 13-14, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Click [here](#) to register.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health**: Friday, November 4.

Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception.

Conference on Oral Health Preconference Sessions (register [here](#))

- October 7 - Public Oral Health 101
- October 14 - Federal Oral Health Policy
- October 21 - Oral Health Policy Across the Country
- October 28 - Advocating for policy change in Kansas

Deadlines to remember for General Election:

October 18: Deadline to [register to vote](#) in the General Election

October 19: First day advance by mail ballots are mailed and advance in-person voting may begin

November 1: Deadline for votes to [apply for advance mail ballot](#)

November 8: General Election



We are excited to welcome Dr. MaryAnne Lynch Small as our new Medicaid Projects Manager. MaryAnne worked with us as a Master's of Public Health intern over the summer. She completed that degree from Columbia University last month and began work in this part-time position at Oral Health Kansas this month.



Sugary Drink Display

Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

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