



## 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](#).

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### Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Inch Closer

This year the Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million in new funding to extend Medicaid dental coverage to adults. The Division of Health Care Finance at KDHE has drafted a list of dental services they propose to add for adults enrolled in Medicaid. The scope of services

includes fillings, crowns, and periodontal (gum disease) treatment. Exams and cleanings are projected to continue as a part of the managed care organizations' value-added benefits. The draft benefit package does not include services such as partials and dentures yet, but Oral Health Kansas is working on a strategy to advocate to add those services as quickly as possible. While nothing is final, state officials have said they anticipate coverage for the new services being available for adults this summer. The process to finalize the list of services and make it available to the public is evolving. Oral Health Kansas is at the table advocating for as many services as possible as well as for making the administrative burden as low as possible. We will keep our supporters informed throughout the process and will share resources and tips for both consumers and providers once the benefits are finalized. Please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) if you have questions. We will do our best to find the answers.



## Speak with Candidates this Election Season

As election season ramps up, you may have the opportunity to speak with candidates before election day. Whether you attend a candidate forum or visit with candidates who knock on your door, take advantage of these opportunities by ensuring oral health is part of the conversation! Ask candidates questions about oral health policy issues to help increase their awareness and ensure oral health remains part of the conversation once they are elected. Starting conversations also helps you learn which candidate you want to vote for on election day.

### State Level Races

- What is your position on expanding Medicaid/KanCare for adults who fall in the coverage gap?
- What are your thoughts on increasing access to dental care for KanCare beneficiaries?
- What do you think about allowing people to have access to teledental services, especially in rural areas?

### Congressional Races

- What are your thoughts on including dental coverage in basic Medicare coverage?
- What is your position on increasing CDC funding to support oral health programs in each state?

### How to Find Candidate Forum

- Find a list of candidates at your local election or county clerk's office.
- Follow candidates on social media to learn when they'll be in town.
- Check the newspaper and local media for candidate forum announcements.

### Don't forget the upcoming deadlines

- July 12: Deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election
- July 13: First day advance by mail ballots are mailed and advance in-person voting may begin
- July 26: Deadline for votes to apply for advance mail ballot
- **August 2: Primary Election**



## New Food Source Website

The new Kansas Food Source website was launched after the pandemic. There wasn't a comprehensive list of food banks and the [Kansas Food Source website](https://www.kansasfoodsource.org) does just that. It is designed to help people in need of food assistance find pantry locations in their areas. The website also features a link for help applying for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or food stamps, along with a link for upcoming summer food sites for children.

OHK practiced navigating the website and it is user friendly! Find your county on the map, click and a list of locations will be given along with the hours available.

If you have questions regarding the [KansasFoodSource.org](https://www.kansasfoodsource.org), website, please contact the Kansas Food Bank at (316) 265-3663.



## Vaccines Recommended for Young Children

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the all children 6 months through 5 years of age should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This expands eligibility for vaccination to nearly 20 million

additional children and means that all Americans ages 6 months and older are now eligible for vaccination.

For more information, view the CDC website [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

- **Webinar:** Improving Care for LGBTQ+ Patients, June 30, 12:00pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Webinar:** Oral Health Systems Change Webinar Series, Thursday, June 30, 6-7:30pm CST. To sign up, [click here](#).
- **Save the Date!** 16th Kansas Disability Caucus on August 10th - 12th. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Community Care Network of Kansas** annual conference, October 5-7 in Manhattan, Kansas. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health:** Friday, November 4. Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception.

### Dates to remember!

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We were excited to hear the big news this week! Ed O'Malley has been named president and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation. He will begin his role as CEO on Aug. 10, 2022. O'Malley currently serves as president and CEO of the Kansas Leadership Center, a non-profit organization committed to fostering leadership for stronger, healthier

and more prosperous Kansas communities. In his current role, Ed has been an important part of OHK's Dental Champions Leadership Program by helping us tailor leadership training through the Kansas Leadership Center to our program. We are eager to work with Ed in his new role at the Kansas Health Foundation.



## 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.

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