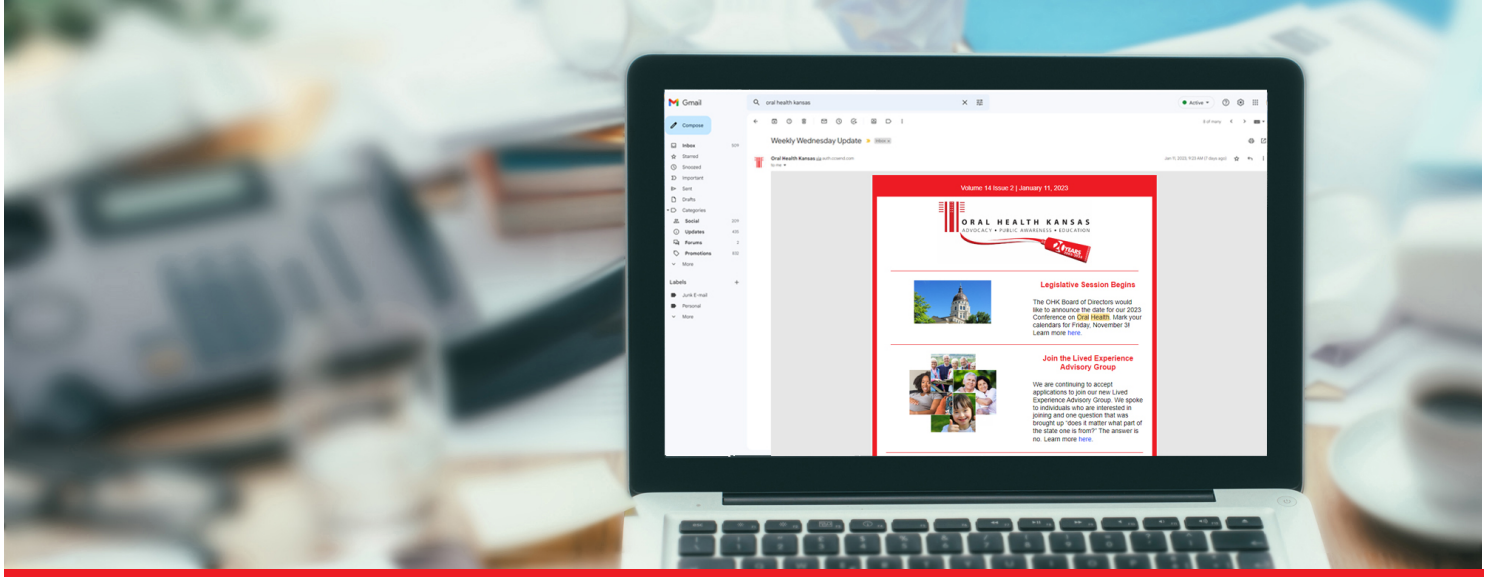




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

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Scan the QR code



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**[Weekly
Wednesday
Update.](#)**



Fluoride in Kansas Website Has a New Look

The [Fluoride in Kansas](#) has a fresh new look. Thanks to CareQuest Institute for Oral Health for providing financial support to make this possible!

The Fluoride in Kansas website informs the public about the benefits of community water fluoridation. We hope you find this is as a helpful resource when you are looking for facts about fluoridation as well as the history of water fluoridation in Kansas. Community water fluoridation is the practice of adjusting

the natural fluoride level in a public water supply to a concentration that helps prevent tooth decay. It's essentially a public health measure rather than relying on individuals to get fluoride some other way, the water system itself delivers a low, consistent, safe dose to everyone who drinks it. Almost 1.7 million Kansans receive fluoridated water, but Kansas still ranks second-to-last in our region for the percentage of residents that receive water from fluoridated public water systems.

You can also join the [Statewide Water Action Team](#) (SWAT)! SWAT members will help ensure Kansans who benefit from water fluoridation continue to enjoy it without threat. We ask that you help watch out for potential threats and help us keep fluoride in Kansas.

Learn more at the [Fluoride in Kansas website](#).



Deadline is Less Than Two Weeks Away

The Excellence in Oral Health Award nominations will be coming to a close on Friday, August 28. If you have someone in mind that has done exceptional work to improve the oral health of Kansas, nominate them today. We're looking for individuals or organizations who have done excellent work beyond their day-to-day role. You may know someone who's unwavering dedication is making a measurable impact in improving oral health outcomes and that person needs to be recognized!

We'll honor award winners at the luncheon during the annual Conference on Oral Health on Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus.

Outstanding Organization Award - An organization that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas. **Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award** - A dental hygienist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Outstanding Dentist Award - A dentist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Outstanding Community Leader Award - A community leader that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker Award - An outstanding policy maker that is distinguished from others in excellence, who shows support for the oral health of all Kansans.

Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award - An outstanding non-dental volunteer who demonstrates a positive difference in an organization - someone who saw a problem and got involved to find a solution.

Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award - This award is designed to recognize the outstanding work a Dental Champion has done as a direct result of participating in the Dental Champions Leadership Program.

Submit your nominations by Friday, August 28 by 5:00pm. Click [here](#) for the Excellence in Oral Health Award or [here](#) for the Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion

Award Email info@oralhealthkansas.org with any questions about the awards nominations.

We ask that you do not nominate someone who has won an award in the past to allow everyone an opportunity.



Oral Health Policy and Election Update at the Conference on Oral Health

Stuart Little, Ph.D, with Little Government Relations, will be speaking at our Conference on Oral Health this year. We're grateful to have Dr. Little available and share his knowledge with us. He will provide a timely overview of the state and local policy landscape shaping oral health access and outcomes. Attendees will get an update on key legislative developments, Medicaid dental rates along with an analysis of recent state and local elections. This session will offer practical insights for

engaging with policymakers and anticipating upcoming legislative opportunities and challenges. You don't want to miss this opportunity!

The Conference on Oral Health is on Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus. The event will be all day and CE's will be provided! Registration will be opening up within the next few weeks.

If you are interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at our conference, you can view the levels [here](#).



How Often Should the Weekly Wednesday Update Be Distributed?

The Weekly Wednesday Update has been around for many, many years. Each week we have brought you oral health and health updates from around Kansas as well as national news. We share what staff is working on and what's next.

We want to know your opinion. How often should the Weekly Wednesday Update be distributed? Click [here](#) for the poll question.



Oral Health Kansas Speaks to Dental Hygiene Students

Education Manager, Abby Richwine, presented to dental hygiene students at Concorde Career

College. She discussed providing care for individuals with disabilities, including practical modifications providers can make to create a more accessible and inclusive dental experience, and introduced students to the My Dental Care Passport as well as an overview of Oral Health Kansas and how the students can become involved in oral health advocacy. The students asked great questions and were intrigued to learn that there are opportunities for dental hygienists in the public health field.

One of the comments from the students said "I was impressed with the work OHK has been doing and I'm excited about the impact they're making in our community".

Students are also welcome to attend our Conference on Oral Health on Friday, November 13. We offer a student rate. Watch for registration!



Upcoming Events

- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas annual conference, September 23-25 in Manhattan, Kansas. Learn more [here](#).
- Kansas Public Health Association Conference, October 5 - 6, 2026 in Manhattan. Click [here](#) for information.
- Rutgers University offering Perinatal Oral Health ECHO Series webinar. Check out the list of series [here](#).
- **Save the date!** The 2026 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus.



Yesterday marked our last day with our Pathways to Oral Health Project facilitator, Cy Rogers. Cy is with Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute and has been the groups facilitator from the beginning. We have been extremely appreciative of his guidance and keeping us focused and moving forward. We will miss you! Good luck, Cy!



Picture courtesy of Wichita State University



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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