



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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Registration Opening Soon!

Registration will be opening next week for the Conference on Oral Health! The conference will be hybrid this year to allow participants an opportunity to join in person or virtually on the Whova platform. The conference will be held on November 4 at the

Kansas State University Campus. There will be a Dental Champions reception the evening of November 3.

We'll continue to keep you updated and look for the conference registration link soon!



National Healthy Aging Month

September is National Healthy Aging Month, an annual health observance designed to focus national attention on the positive aspects of growing older. It's never too late to make healthier choices for your overall health including managing your oral health.

Older Americans can face a variety of oral diseases that often are affected by other medical conditions. Oral disease affecting older people include cavities, decay of the tooth root, gum disease, and oral cancer. In addition to facing dental diseases, older adults also experience nutrition and access to service challenges. Older adults and their caregivers may not have the skills to protect their oral health with daily at home oral hygiene. They may choose foods that are convenient, which are often high in carbohydrates, and many older people may have limited access to fresh vegetables and fruits. Many older adults do not have funds necessary to access dental care, and Medicare does not cover dental services. Even for older people who live in cities with many dentists, transportation to dental clinics is limited. For those who live in rural areas, the one existing dental office might be hours away. While the challenges are many, there are ways to address them. For example, some

older adults have problems with mobility which can make using a toothbrush difficult. [Oral Health Kansas has developed a guide](#) to products that can help with adapting a toothbrushing routine.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated throughout the latter half of September and the first half of October (September 15 - October 15). It began as a way to promote the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic-Americans, specifically those whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Communities mark the



achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans with festivals and educational activities. This year's theme is "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation".

Health Forward Foundation and BeGreat Together, in partnership with the Convergence Partnership and Assemble, announced a new four-part film series called DocuCourse. Each film will elevate the stories of Black and Latino changemakers from the Kansas City area and highlight the strategies they use to make a difference. Watch the [trailer](#) and stream the full DocuCourse when

it's released this Sunday on **September 18**.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar:** Dentists in Medicaid, September 15 at 11am CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Webinar:** Caring for Latino and Hispanic Patients, September 15 at 12pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Live event** (in person and virtual): Unlocking Access to Oral Health, September 20 at 7:30am CST. Click [here](#) to

register.

- **Webinar:** Mental Health in Dental Professionals, September 20 at 6pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Kansas Public Health Association** annual conference, September 29 in Wichita, Kansas. Click [here](#) as more information is shared.
- **Community Care Network of Kansas** annual conference, October 5-7 in Manhattan, Kansas. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **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

- October 7 - Public oral health 101
- October 14 - Federal oral health policy overview
- October 21 - National look at other states' oral health policy issues

- October 28 - Advocating for oral health policy 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



Thrilling news! Dr. Carlos Smith, D.D.S., Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Director of Ethics Curriculum and Associate professor at Virginia Commonwealth University will be the Luncheon Keynote Speaker for the Conference on Oral

Health on November 4. He will be speaking on the history of racism in dental care.



Sugary Drink Display

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

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