



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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Deadline Coming Up!

The deadline for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards nominations is less than a week away. We will be honoring the award winners during the Conference on Oral Health on Friday, November 4 at the Kansas State University Olathe Campus. The Ron Alexander Dental Champions Award will be recognized during the Dental Champions reception on the evening



of Thursday, November 3. The awards are given every year to Kansans or organizations that have made a significant contribution to improving oral health in their communities.

The categories for nominations are:

- Outstanding Organization
- Outstanding Dental Hygiene Clinician
- Outstanding Dentist Award
- Outstanding Community Leader
- Bob Bethel Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer
- Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award

Click [here](#) to view information for nominations and to view past recipients.



Showcase at the Conference on Oral Health

We're seeking exhibitors for the 2022 Conference on Oral Health on November 4 at the Kansas State University

Campus in Olathe. Space is limited! We're happy to have in person exhibitors this year and the chance for you to have face to face interactions and build relationships. Exhibitors receive several benefits including:

- One complimentary conference registration
- A 6 foot table. A tablecloth will not be provided
- Two chairs, and electricity upon request
- Complimentary internet access
- Complimentary access to all conference meal functions and speakers

If you are interested in sponsoring our annual event or would like to sign up as an exhibitor, click [here](#) for the form. If you have any questions, email info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Be Prepared This Election Season

The political ads are on TV again, so we know election season is upon us. We've shared some questions you can ask candidates to get an idea of where they stand on oral health issues, but do you know who all 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](http://at.myvoteinfo.voteks.org). The deadline to register to vote is October 18.**



Transportation to Dental Appointments Covered

The Kansas Medicaid program has announced that non-emergency medical transportation services will be covered for adults who access the new Medicaid dental services. These services went into effect July 1, 2022, and include fillings and crowns as well as gum disease

treatment. The policy change to allow access to non-emergency medical transportation was announced last week, but the transportation services are in effect retroactive to July 1. Oral Health Kansas is grateful to the Medicaid staff for ensuring transportation will not be a barrier to adults who need the new dental services.



Dental Infection Control Awareness Month

Dental Infection Control Awareness Month (DICAM) is in September and the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) is recognizing this year's theme, "Staying in The Know

Together.” OSAPS goal is to serve as the leading provider of infection prevention and control education, training, and credentialing that supports The Safest Dental Visit. Each week will have a different focus and this week’s focus is Hand Hygiene (September 5 - 9). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends that hand hygiene be performed:

- before and after treating patients
- before leaving the dental operatory
- after touching objects contaminated by blood, saliva or other secretions
- when hands are visibly soiled
- after removing gloves that are torn, cut or punctured and before replacing gloves

When handling contaminated instruments for instrument processing, always wear utility gloves. Never use bare hands.

You can find more information about Hand Hygiene on the [CDC’s website](#). To find out more information about DICAM and to find a social media toolkit, go to

<https://www.osap.org/dicam>.



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



We are eager to announce one of our speakers for the Conference on Oral Health preconference sessions, Mallory Lutz. Mallory will be presenting, "Advocating for oral health policy in Kansas", at noon on Friday, October 28. She works for [Little Government Relations](#) and is Oral Health Kansas' lobbyist. Mallory is helping us organize our preconference sessions to ensure our participants walk away with helpful insights!



Sugary Drink Display

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

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