

## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

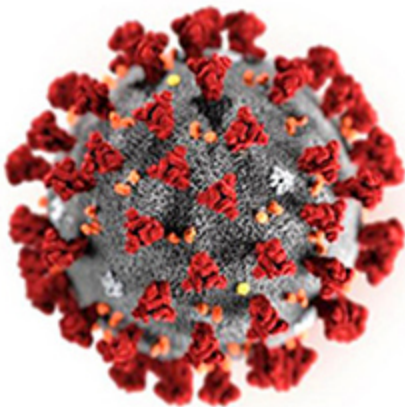
The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

April 22, 2020

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### ADA & ADHA Provide Guidance

On April 18, the [American Dental Association \(ADA\)](#) released [new guidance for dentists](#) as some states begin to re-open businesses and health services including dental offices. In their press release, they said, “The ADA recognizes that [local or state government decisions](#) regarding closures, including restrictions regarding elective health care, supersede ADA recommendations.” The ADA reminds dentists that because

COVID-19 tests are not available for use in their offices, they need to be aware that asymptomatic people cannot be assumed to be COVID free. They also are providing interim guidance on the personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended in order to be able to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) is advocating with governors across the country to request non-emergency services continue to be postponed even after the Stay At Home orders are lifted. They also cite the importance of PPE as a factor in getting dental offices open safely. In Kansas, the Stay At Home order will expire Sunday, May 3. The Kansas Dental Hygienist Association's (KDHA) Governmental Relations team is advocating with Governor Laura Kelly to postpone non-emergency services in order to keep service professionals safe. Learn more on the [KDHA's Facebook page](#).

According to the [ADA's Health Policy Institute](#), as of the week of April 6th, 95.2% of dental offices in Kansas were closed or providing emergency only services.



## Legislative Session On Hold / State Budget Hole

The Kansas Legislature began their spring break early when the COVID-9 pandemic hit. On March 19, they adjourned after passing a basic budget for the next year. They were scheduled to return to the Capitol on Monday, April 27, but the Legislative Coordinating Council met virtually this morning and decided unanimously to postpone the Legislature's return. The Council said they will decide by May 6 when to bring the Legislature back. Considerations for their decision included the fact that over 65% of legislators are in the 'at risk' category for catching the virus due to health conditions, age or home county location, and that it would be difficult to maintain 6-foot physical separation within legislative chambers. It is still anticipated that legislators will return at some point before Sine Die, the ceremonial end of the 2020 session, which is set for May 21st.

Depending on how the pandemic progresses in Kansas and if the statewide stay-at-home order is extended even further beyond May 3rd, it is possible the Legislature would not reconvene. Having passed the budget in March, they technically are not required to come back. Instead, the Governor could call a special session for later in the summer to address unresolved issues, most likely related to COVID-19.

### **Revenues plummet**

This week state officials also convened to project state revenue for the next 18 months

While state revenues have been running ahead of estimates for at least the last two years, revenues now are projected to drop by over \$1.2 billion this year and next. This is the largest and fastest state revenue drop in memory, and while it was expected it is still shocking. Both the House and Senate budget committees are expected to meet virtually Thursday and Friday this week to discuss the revenue estimate, review the previously approved budget, and begin conversations with state agencies about contingencies. The budget the Legislature passed in March included a \$3 million rate increase for Medicaid dental services.



Photo by Element5 Digital on [Unsplash](#)

## 2020 Election Deadlines Have Begun

COVID-19 has changed nearly every aspect of our lives, and elections are not an exception. 2020 is [a big year for elections](#) as the state will vote on State Senators, State Representatives, U.S. Senators, and U.S. Representatives, as well as the U.S. President. Oral Health Kansas is dedicated to keeping you informed about voter deadlines to ensure all Kansans have the information and ability to get out and vote this year!

The first major deadline for the 2020 Elections is Friday, April 24th, which is the deadline to [request a mail-in ballot](#) for the Kansas Democratic Presidential Primary Election. In light of COVID-19, the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary will be conducted completely by mail, and there will be NO IN-PERSON voting on May 2, 2020. If you are a registered Kansas Democrat, you may have already received your mail-in ballot. If you have not received your ballot, you have until April 24th to request a mail-in ballot by calling 785-234-0425 or filling out [this online form](#). Ballots must be returned by May 2nd.

Additional information about the 2020 Kansas Elections, including election dates/deadlines and candidate lists, can be found [here](#). Use [this website](#) if you're unsure about your voter registration status or if you need to update your information.

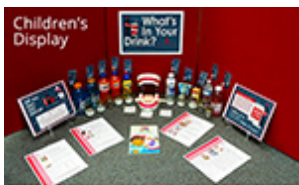


The Kansas Dental Association inducted a new President on April 17, 2020. Dr. Allen Reavis was named President for 2020-2021. He has been in private practice for 36 years at Atchison Dental Associates in

Atchison, Kansas. As a member of the Kansas Dental Board, Dr. Reavis helped with the scaling assistant and sedation regulation legislation. To help underserved dental patients, Dr. Reavis led the effort to add a dental clinic to the Atchison Community Health Clinic, including raising all the funds to complete it. It has been very successful and now provides dental care to the underserved citizens of northeast Kansas, four days a week



Picture courtesy of Kansas Dental Association



## Sugary Drink Display Sanitation



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.



**Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until May 3. You can begin making reservations for later in the year now, though.**

Reserve your Sugary Drink Display for a health fair, office, or event! You can also purchase a Sugary Drink Display to have as your own! What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. Click here to learn more!

There is **no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display. Postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt.**

All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us

with feedback about the display. [Click here to make a reservation!](#)

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? [Click here to download our brochure.](#)



## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Conference on Oral Health scheduled for Friday, November 13! Location in Johnson County! Watch for more details!

## Follow Us



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