



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

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Save the Date!
Friday, Nov. 13

**2015 Virginia
Oral Health
Summit**
Richmond, VA

**[Add this event to
your calendar](#)**

**Sponsorship and
exhibit options
available.**

Contact [Samantha
Dorr](#) for details.

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***Congratulations,
Katherine!***

April 2015 Newsletter

Updated Water Fluoridation Recommendations

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a brief that reemphasized its support for water fluoridation and recommended an updated level of fluoride in drinking water to 0.7 parts per million (ppm). Previously, the recommended level (which has not changed since 1962) was a range of 0.7 - 1.2 ppm.

The updated level reflects two key facts:

- Americans have access to more sources of fluoride in toothpastes and mouth rinses than they did in 1962.
- In the 1960s, scientists believed water consumption habits varied by region, thus constituting a range of fluoridation levels based on consumption. New research, however, shows that regional differences in water consumption are negligible and a single fluoride level is most appropriate.

Community water fluoridation is safe and has been proven to reduce tooth decay by up to 25 percent in children and adults. The Centers for Disease Control include water fluoridation in the list of the ten most effective public health innovations of the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, despite a plethora of evidence-based research and strong support from health associations like the American Dental Association, American Pediatric Association and the American Public Health Association, a small minority of vocal critics continue to spread inaccurate research and false claims about fluoridation.

You may receive questions about water fluoridation from patients and colleagues. Here are some resources to help you provide evidence-based answers.

- [Statement of the Evidence Supporting the Safety and Effectiveness of Community Water Fluoridation](#) (CDC)
- [Common Questions about Fluoride - For Parents and Caregivers](#) (Campaign for Dental Health, CDH)
- [Q&A: The Updated Recommendation for Fluoride in](#)

"You can look into a child's mouth and tell immediately if they drink fluoridated water. It's that important."

**Clint Norris, DDS
Virginia Dentist**



We are so proud of our program director, Katherine Libby, for her Change Agent award nomination - part of [Greater Richmond Chamber's HYPE Emerging Leader Awards](#). Robin Haldiman, Executive Director of CHIP of Roanoke Valley and VaOHC Board Chair, states, "Katherine's unwavering dedication and hard work ensuring vulnerable Virginians have access to oral health care are unprecedented. I am thrilled for Katherine to be publicly acknowledged for what we have seen and known to be true of Katherine all along."

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Please take a moment to support the Coalition's work.



[Read about the Coalition's accomplishments](#)

Please check with your HR department to find out if your gift can be matched.

- [Water](#) (Children's Dental Health Project)
- [A Quick Primer on the Fluoride Debate](#) (CDH)

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Board of Dentistry Open Forum

The Board of Dentistry is holding an open forum regarding access to dental treatment on Friday, May 8, at the Department of Health Professions from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Public comment is welcome. Some of the discussion will likely center around this [recent report](#) by the Department of Health Professions regarding supervision of dental hygienists.



[View the full agenda and event details](#)

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Clinical Advisory Board: A Community Resource

Members of VaOHC's [Clinical Advisory Board](#) (CAB) provide clinical guidance to inform VaOHC's strategies to improve access to and utilization of oral health services, and serve as a liaison between VaOHC and the



provider community. CAB members are available to support your oral health integration efforts through presentations or other outreach efforts. Please contact [Sarah Bedard Holland](#) if you're interested in scheduling a presentation for your team or are interested in joining the board.

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Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health is connected to overall health and well-being.



- [Oral Health and Menopause](#)
- [Oral Health and Cardiovascular Disease](#)
- [Oral Health and Liver Disease](#)

Oral Health Facility Tool Kit



The Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit for Primary Care Nurse Practitioners and Midwifery Programs is an innovative, web-based product intended to facilitate the integration of oral-systemic health content and clinical competencies into nurse practitioner and midwifery curricula.

[View the facility tool kit](#)

Free CE Course for Dentists: Dental Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs

The Virginia Department of Health, in partnership with the Virginia Dental Association (VDA) and VDA Foundation, is offering the following free continuing education course for actively practicing dentists, *Dental Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) and Very Young Children: A Case-Based Approach*.



[View for training locations and additional information](#)

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Please visit our website for more oral health information
www.vaoralhealth.org

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