



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update February 2016

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Save the Date

2016 Virginia Oral Health Summit
Thursday, November 10

[Add this event to your calendar](#)

Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available. Contact [Samantha Dorr](#) for details.

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CME Webinar: Pediatric Oral Health

Legislature on Track to Support Oral Health Access



Of note, bills that support access to oral health care are showing bipartisan support this session. One piece of legislation will enable dental hygienists to work under remote supervision in safety net sites and another will allow dental safety net providers to more easily deliver care through mobile clinics. For more information, view our [website](#).

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Virginia Medicaid Agency Applies for DSRIP Waiver

Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) - the state agency that administers the Medicaid and FAMIS programs - recently submitted an [application](#) for a Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) waiver to coordinate care and transition to new payment models for high-cost Medicaid enrollees. Despite significant public comment recommending that the DSRIP waiver reflect the entire array of services available to Medicaid beneficiaries (including the limited dental benefit for adults), the DSRIP application does not include oral health. As the

Register for the free webinar *Meeting MOC Part IV Requirements using Pediatric Oral Health* on **Wednesday, March 16 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET** to learn how to integrate oral health services into a busy practice and earn MOC part IV credit for your efforts. This webinar is hosted by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and From the First Tooth. 1 CME credit available.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

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VDHA Spring Scientific Session

The 63rd Scientific Session of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association will be held **March 18-20, 2016**, at the Hilton Richmond Hotel. 17 hours of continuing education will be available.

[Register or view more information.](#)

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



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

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application process progresses, VaOHC will continue to follow its implementation and encourage oral health inclusion where applicable.

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Children's Dental Health Project Launches "End Cavities" Website



As you know, tooth decay affects more children than asthma or obesity and, though preventable, can significantly impair development. The Children's

Dental Health Project (CDHP) has launched a new website "**End Cavities**" (www.endcavities.org) with financial support from the Colgate-Palmolive Company. The site aims to address early childhood caries with education, resources and strategies for providers, advocates and caregivers. Of note, the website hosts a recent [survey](#) of that reveals significant gaps in public knowledge about oral health.

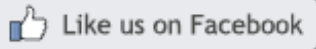
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Flint Water Crisis and Oral Health

The water crisis in Flint, Michigan is raising questions regarding public water supplies, in addition health concerns about lead consumption. Unfortunately, elevated lead levels have negative consequences on oral health. A recent [study](#) found a strong association between blood lead levels and cavities in children ages two to six. Furthermore, individuals who primarily drink bottled drinking water may not receive optimal levels of fluoride.



The [CDC website offers tips](#) on how to have your public water supply tested and ways to minimize or avoid lead exposure. Additionally, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has put together a [list of resources](#) for state health leadership to monitor the lead crisis.



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 Quality of Life](#)
- [Saliva Test and Tracking Cancer](#)
- [Oral Bacteria and Stroke](#)

President Obama Extends CHIP Funding, Encourages Medicaid Expansion

President Obama has extended federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding through fiscal year 2019; CHIP funding supports Virginia's FAMIS program that provides affordable medical, dental and behavioral health coverage to children and pregnant women. President Obama also encouraged Medicaid expansion in states like Virginia that have not yet expanded by proposing to reimburse the full cost of newly eligible adults for the first three years after expansion, effectively extending the 100 percent funding period.

New Website: VDH LiveWell

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently launched its newly-designed website VDH LiveWell (www.vdh.virginia.gov/livewell). The website redesign is more user-friendly to the public. To access the Dental Health Program webpage, [click here](#).

Utah Considers Medicaid Dental Benefits for Disabled Adults

Utah is considering a bill that would restore Medicaid dental benefits to more than 34,000 blind and disabled adults; dental benefits have

been discontinued since 2009. The bill calls for the University of Utah School of Dentistry to pay the non federal cost of the program and allow university students treat the patient population.

[Read more](#) and [track the legislation](#).



Oral Health and Pregnancy: Multilingual Resources for Patients and Providers

The Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) has released its popular handout [Tips for Good Oral Health During Pregnancy](#) in three more languages: Arabic, Korean and Portuguese. OHRC resources are freely available online to download, print and distribute.

[View OHRC's oral health and pregnancy resources](#)



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