Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update
November 2018

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Share Your Opinion About Our Newsletter!

Take the Survey

We're updating our monthly newsletter and want to hear from you! Take our short four question survey to provide your feedback as we work to make a newsletter that works best for you.

Congress Passes Action for Dental Health Act

This week Congress passed the Action for Dental Health Act. If signed by the President, this legislation will enable more organizations to qualify for HHS grants to improve oral health education and support outreach efforts. While this is a small step to improving access to affordable, comprehensive health care, it marks the first time in a long while that Congress has addressed oral health at all; this could serve as a starting point for Congress to take up policy solutions that address oral health coverage, care, and access in a meaningful way.

Submit Comments Opposing Changes to Public Charge By December 10

Join us in opposing the proposed changes to the public charge designation. The changes would broaden the list of health-related programs considered when determining if someone is likely to become a public charge and could force nearly 600,000 people in Virginia to choose between their health and their immigration status. Learn more about the potential impact on the health of Virginia families and submit your comments here. Thank you for your support on this important issue!
On the Blog:

- CCC+ and Medallion FAQ Blog: Learn more about our FAQS on enhanced dental benefits in CCC+ and Medallion.
- NNOHA Annual Conference Recap: Coalition program manager Quan Williams shares her experience at the NNOHA Annual Conference.

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Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

View our online Event Calendar

December 11 | Richmond
Early Dental Home/Project Advisory Board

December 11 | Richmond
RVA/Petersburg School Age Workgroup

January 11-12 | Danville
Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It!

January 25-26 | Richmond
Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It!

February 22-23 | Springfield
Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It!

March 15-16 | Onley
Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It!

May 10-11 | Radford
Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It!

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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 and other social factors impact overall health and well-being.

- Seniors Cannot Age in Place Without Access to Oral Health Services (Shelterforce)
- Gum Disease Treatment Linked to Improved Blood Glucose in Type 2 Diabetes, Study Finds (Diabetes.co)
- Preventive Dental Care Associated with Fewer ED, Hospital Visits (Health IT Analytics)

Register for Tooth Talk Roundtable

Join the Virginia Health Care Foundation on December 5 for the December Tooth Talk Roundtable. The event will feature updates on Medicaid expansion, its impact on the dental safety net in Virginia, and a panel on "innovators in integration." Register to attend the free roundtable here.

New Resource Available for Dentists on Opioid Prescribing, Pregnancy

FluidLaw.Org Launches New, Up-To-Date Website

To answer policy and legal questions on community water fluoridation across the country, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors Network for Public Health - Eastern Region and the Public Health Law Clinic at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law relaunched FluidLaw.org. The site contains updates to fluoridation laws across the United States and serves as a resource for state and local advocates.

Oral Health America Celebrates National Family Caregiver's Month with Older Adult Resources

This November is National Family Caregiver's Month. To recognize caregivers’ hard work, Oral Health America launched new caregiver resources highlighting the role oral health plays in overall health for older adults. The resources include tip sheets on brushing and oral hygiene for older adults, along with opportunities to recognize and thank caregivers.