



## September 2020 Newsletter

### Funding for an Adult Dental Benefit - Your Voice can Make a Difference

Legislators have released updated versions of the budget, and funding for an adult dental benefit was reallocated in the proposed Senate budget! Learn more about what this means and what comes next [here](#). We're nearing the finish line and need support from all across Virginia to ensure the funding is in the budget presented to the Governor.

Using the buttons below please email two key negotiators in the budget process. **Even if you have already contacted Delegates Torian and Sickles please send them another email to let them know how important adult dental is!** Funding for this benefit hinges on our outreach right now and every email matters.

[Email Delegate Torian](#)

[Email Delegate Sickles](#)

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### Summit Registration Closes THIS Friday!

Registration closes on Friday for the [2020 Virginia Oral Health Summit](#). This year's virtual summit will be held from October 7-9 and features Virginia-specific information and innovations that attendees can use in their daily work. The keynotes for the summit this year are:

- **Opportunities for a More Equitable Public Oral Health System:** Day one starts with a panel discussion on how the events of 2020 have reshaped public oral health. Panelists will share their expertise on future-looking topics like ethics in health care delivery and education, motivational interviewing, value-based payment models, and the opportunities for place-based care.
- **Building Community Resilience: Applying the Pair of ACEs to Practice:** In our day two keynote Dr. Wendy Ellis will share how to apply a community resilience framework to our work. By the end of the session, you'll have learned how to identify community assets and resources, promote efforts to address social determinants of health, and build community resilience in the areas you serve.
- **Pandemics, Policing, and Protest: On Racism and Health:** The summit's final day begins with a keynote from Dr. Rhea Boyd, who was recently featured in [NBC News](#). Dr. Boyd will discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic

and the Black Lives Matter movement have highlighted the persistence of systemic racism in Virginia and across the country and the opportunities we have to dismantle it.

The full agenda is available [here](#), all attendees will have exclusive access to archived recordings of every summit session, and CE credits are available.

[Register today!](#)

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## Additional Resources

### - Resources for Virginians Seeking Flu Shots

As flu season approaches Catalyst has joined more than 60 organizations to raise awareness about the importance of the flu shot. The flu shot is a safe and affordable way to keep yourself and your community healthy and safe. To support Virginians getting their flu shot Lyft, the ride-sharing company, is offering ride credits for people traveling to get a flu shot. Virginians can use the code **VAFIGHTSFLU** for rides to and from vaccination sites. Ride credits will be available until Dec. 31, 2020, and additional terms may apply. Members of the health care community can also direct Virginians [here](#) to find a convenient location for their flu shot.

### - Early Voting is Underway for the 2020 November Election

In-person early voting and mail-in voting have begun in Virginia, and Virginians still have until October 13th to register to vote. Be sure to share voting information with patients and community members over the next month to make sure every voice is heard in Virginia. For additional resources and information on registering to vote, requesting a mail-in ballot, or finding your voting location visit the [Virginia Department of Elections](#).

### - COVID-19 and School-Based Oral Health Programs

With most of Virginia's schools opening virtually for the start of the school year students are losing access to important school-based oral health programs. A recent article in the [New York Times](#) highlights the impact this has nationally. With students at home, it's important to encourage healthy at-home oral hygiene habits, learn more with Virginia Health Catalyst's "Healthy at Home Tip Sheet" available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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