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COVID-19 Resources

Each Friday Virginia Health Catalyst shares the latest resources for COVID-19. For more up-to-date resources visit the Catalyst [COVID-19 resource page](#).

Adult Dental Benefit in Medicaid Update

While funding for a comprehensive adult dental benefit in Medicaid was included in the budget, COVID-19's impact on the economy has forced the Governor to suspend all new funding. This decision enables him to revisit spending items in the budget when there is more clarity on Virginia's financial picture. Currently, he plans to bring the legislative body back this summer to address spending.

This change does not mean that an adult dental benefit in Medicaid is no longer a possibility. DMAS is continuing to plan for implementation of the benefit on January 1, 2021, as originally planned. And we will continue to watch revenue projections carefully, a dental benefit is more important now than ever.

If you would like to receive additional updates and lend your voice to our advocacy efforts please join the Catalyst Grassroots Advocacy Team [here](#).



Catalyst Materials

Catalyst continues to develop new materials and resources intended to help our partners navigate COVID-19. These resources and more are included on the [COVID-19 resource page](#), which is now searchable by keyword, date created, or source.

- [Dentistry During COVID-19 Live Q&A webinar](#):

Earlier this week Catalyst hosted a webinar with McAllister Castelez, DMD, Horizon Health Center, Scott Wolpin, DMD, Dental Director, Eastern Shore Rural Health System, and Zachary Hairston, DDS, Dental Consultant, DMAS. The webinar covered topics like teledentistry and the recent Smiles for Children guidance.

- [Teledentistry Implementation Guide](#):

Following the Smiles for Children guidance released last week, Catalyst released its Teledentistry Implementation Guide. The guide includes workflows, billing information, and additional resources like teledentistry platform options.

- [Practice Teledentistry Visit](#):

In this visit example video, Dr. Tiffany Nightengale performs a teledentistry visit. The video shows the steps to take for a successful visit including questions to ask a patient.



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we know that in Virginia and across the country people of color are more likely to experience poorer oral health and overall health. Health equity is not a new topic, and COVID-19 has starkly reinforced the need to address system-wide equity issues.

Kaiser Family Foundation has released a [new research brief](#) documenting the significant impact race has on who is most negatively affected by COVID-19. While we do not have complete data on [COVID-19 cases by race in Virginia](#), we know that the picture looks similar to the one across the country, health inequities play a powerful role in the health of Virginians.



Clinical Resources:

- [Rural Response to COVID-19](#) (Rural Health Information Hub)
The Rural Response Guide provides resources, including funding opportunities for rural health providers during COVID-19. It also includes a section on innovations rural health care is taking part in during COVID-19 to meet the needs of patients.

- [COVID-19: Economic Impact on Dental Practices](#) (American Dental Association Health Policy Institute – ADA HPI)
To demonstrate how COVID-19 is impacting dental practices, ADA HPI is conducting and analyzing a series of surveys of dental practices. The second data set in the series was released yesterday and showed significant financial impact for dental practices, now and in the coming months. Of note, ADA HPI found through June a majority of dentists would adjust by focusing on cost-cutting (adjusting staffing or borrowing money) however by the end of August nearly half (46%) said they do not think they could sustain their practice (up from 18% in June).



Policy Resources:

- [Medicaid COVID-19 Resources](#) (DMAS)
DMAS has created new COVID-19 resource pages available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). These pages share relevant Medicaid information for enrollees, including information on how to access care, FAQs, and resources for advocates.

- [Sign-On Letter to Support Oral Health in Congress COVID 4 Package](#) (Families USA)
Families USA is circulating a sign-on letter for partners to advocate for oral health and comprehensive health coverage in the stimulus phase four package. The letter asks Congress to include additional funding for Medicaid and additional support for safety net providers. The deadline to sign on to the letter is April 21 at 5 pm ET.

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