



## Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update September 2018

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### **Register Today for the Virginia Oral Health Summit**

**November 8 | Richmond**

Registration is open for the 2018 Virginia Oral Health Summit! The event will feature health equity scholar Dr. Camara Jones and motivational interviewing expert Dr. Matt Allen, along with community leaders who will discuss health in vulnerable populations, the importance of fluoridated water, and more!

**Early registration ends October 5.**

[Register today](#)

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### On the Blog:

- [Community Tool Box Training](#)

[Recap](#): Read our key takeaways

### Advocacy Update - State and Federal Policies Impacting Virginians

From changes in immigration policy to next steps in Medicaid expansion, September was a busy month in Virginia and on Capitol Hill. Of note:

- **Medicaid Expansion: Roll out is right around the corner.** Medicaid expansion goes into effect January 1, which means efforts are underway to educate and enroll individuals who will be eligible for coverage. Virginia's Medicaid agency, DMAS, has multiple consumer and provider resources available through [CoverVA](#); the website also includes updates and enrollment details.
- **Medicaid Expansion: DMAS shares 1115 waiver for public comment.** When Virginia's legislature passed Medicaid expansion, they did so with the stipulation that expansion would include work requirements and other program changes that require a waiver from the federal government to implement. Last week DMAS shared a draft of the 1115 waiver application which will begin the process of negotiating with the federal government to implement these changes. This process can be long, up to 18 months for other states in the past. The waiver draft details several key components of the proposed changes:

- **A work requirement that includes multiple exemptions** including people who are disabled, pregnant women, and primary caregivers.
- **A monthly premium and co-pays for non-emergency visits** for people earning more than the poverty level.
- **A new housing and employment program** for high-need populations.

to help improve health

outcomes for all Virginians.

- [Home Visitor Training Recap](#):

Discover how our event series "Impacting Oral Health in the Community" helps prepare home visitors to discuss oral health and its role in overall health with families.

- [Three messages to Reinforce With Parents and Caregivers This Back to School Season](#):

Help make oral health a priority for students and families with these three messages.

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## Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

*View our online*  
[Event Calendar](#)

October 2 | Fairfax

[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult Workgroup](#)

October 4 | Petersburg

[Legislator Visits: Senator Dance](#)

October 4 | Richmond

[Legislator Visits: Delegate Carr](#)

October 11 | Richmond

[Legislator Visits: Delegate Aird](#)

October 30 | Norfolk

[Impacting Oral Health in the Community Training](#)

November 8 | Richmond

[2018 Virginia Oral Health Summit](#)

November 28 | Norfolk

[South Hampton Roads Alliance Dental Safety Net Workgroup](#)

December 4 | Fairfax

[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult Workgroup](#)

- **Public Charge: Trump administration announces changes to public charge rule.**

The proposed changes would redefine the definition of a "public charge" to include use of health and nutrition programs like Medicaid, FAMIS, and SNAP. "Public charge" is a category used to determine whether someone seeking permanent resident status is likely to become primarily dependent on government assistance. The current definition of "public charge" is limited to use of cash assistance (TANF) or federal help paying for long term care. (Immigrants must be in the country legally for five years before being eligible for TANF or SSI). Expanding the rule to include health and nutrition programs has significant ramifications for the health and well-being of immigrants and their citizen-family members. A public comment period will open in the coming weeks; you can stay up to date with [Protecting Immigrant Families Advancing Our Future](#) and learn about the [impact public charge changes could have on Virginians](#).

- **Dental in Medicare: Letter circulates Capitol Hill to include medically-necessary dental coverage in Medicare.** This month members of the House of Representatives and Senate signed on to letters asking the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to cover certain "medically-necessary" dental services for individuals enrolled in Medicare. None of the members of the Virginia congressional delegation signed on to the letter, offering all of us an opportunity to educate our congressional delegation about the importance of oral health services. Learn about the issue and ways to get involved through our friends at [Families USA](#), and contact [your congressional representatives](#).

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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.

- [The gaping dental gap: As Virginia prepares to expand Medicaid, thousands still lack access to dental care](#) (Virginia Mercury)
- [New guidelines recommend optimal number of opioids](#) (Dr. Bicuspid)
- [Adult Medicaid dental can make the](#)

December 11 | Richmond  
[Early Dental Home/Project  
Advisory Board](#)

Check out our  
[event calendar](#) to view  
meeting times and exact  
locations for all dates listed  
above.

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

[Donate](#)

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

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[difference](#) (DentaQuest)

- [New brief urges action to prioritize pregnant women's oral health](#) (Children's Dental Health Project)

## Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association Offers Resources on Remote Supervision

Dental hygienists  
in Virginia who are  
interested in  
practicing under  
remote



supervision now have access to the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association's (VDHA) online continuing education course, "Remote Supervision: Guidelines for Practice." The course is free for all through the end of September and complies with the Board of Dentistry's requirements for hygienists wishing to practice under remote supervision. Resources are always available on the [VDHA website](#).

## Toolkit Launched to Increase Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP

Insure Kids Now has launched a back-to-school and school-based outreach toolkit to encourage children's enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP.

Materials include posters, social media messages, and tips to engage with parents and school leaders about opportunities to enroll children and improve health outcomes. Virginia Medicaid and CHIP (FAMIS) programs offer comprehensive dental benefits for children. [Access all the materials and more.](#)



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