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## Member Newsletter



## Coalition News

### Intro to 2012 Fluoridation Equipment RFP Webinar

**December 5, 2-3pm**

In October, the Michigan Department of Community Health issued its 2012 Request for Proposal. With support from Delta Dental Foundation, approximately \$100,000 in grants will be awarded to community water systems across the state. Through this initiative, grants will be awarded to communities that are either without current fluoridation systems or that need to replace equipment in already existing systems. In 2011, the City of Bangor, City of Escanaba, City of Ionia, City of Munising, Lansing Board of Water and Light and Village of Lake Odessa were awarded grants. For the full grant proposal guidelines, click [here](#).

On Monday December 5, the Coalition will offer an informational webinar on the 2012 RFP. The webinar will discuss the benefits of fluoridation, identify strategies to complete the RFP, review the various deadlines and provide a time for questions. Please forward this onto colleagues at water systems and local municipalities. To register, visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/947514202>

### Ending Your Patient's Dependence on Tobacco

**Webinar, December 6 (4-5 pm)**

What program materials or resources are in your tobacco cessation toolbox? Join us for the webinar "Implementation of Tobacco Dependence Treatment Services in the Dental Practice." This is the final of a three-part series on tobacco cessation. Jill Loewen, a certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist and board member of the Michigan Dental Foundation and the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, will serve as faculty. [Register](#) today and take advantage of this great opportunity! Click [here](#) for more details.

### Still Time to Register for 2011 Fall Member Meeting!

**December 9, 9am-3pm**

The 2011 Fall Member Meeting, scheduled for Friday, December 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is a great learning and networking opportunity where we will be discussing topics such as:

- Social Media in Public Health: Utility, Application & Best Practices
- Coalition Update: Advocacy, Education and Grant Partnerships

November 30, 2011

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- Healthy Kids Dental: A National Model
- State Oral Health Plan Update
- Networking Luncheon
- Medicaid and State Exchanges: A Road Map to 2014
- Reinventing Oral Health: A Coalition Member Spotlight

[Read Our Blog](#)  
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For full registration packet, click [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

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## State News

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### HHS Region 5 Director Ken Munson Event Scheduled December 1 to Discuss Health Reform

Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 5 Director, Ken Munson is coming to Lansing on December 1. Director Munson plans to discuss how health care reform advocates and HHS can work together on implementing health care reform and other key issues. The Coalition encourages you to take advantage of this opportunity scheduled December 1 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Capitol. To RSVP, contact John Freeman at [Jfreeman13@comcast.net](mailto:Jfreeman13@comcast.net).

### U-M to Offer Online Dental Hygiene Master's Degree Addresses Critical Need for Online Education

Beginning September 2012, the University of Michigan will be offering an online Master of Science degree in dental hygiene. Based on the success of the university's E-Learning bachelor's degree program, the master's degree will be a two-year, six-semester undertaking. With the creation of this online program, U-M is responding to the critical need of providing higher education in dental hygiene to those who are unwilling to relocate or give up their jobs. This online program was intensely reviewed by U-M's Rackham Graduate School and will equal the quality of the long-standing on-campus program. For more information on this program, click [here](#).

### Possible Technology to Treat Cleft Lips and Palates U-M Research Team Receives FDA Research Grant

Dr. Jeanne Nervina, an assistant professor of dentistry at the University of Michigan, has come up with an idea that could potentially revolutionize the treatment of cleft lips and palates. Inspired by millimeter-scale computing, Jeanne's idea would involve using a microprocessor to develop a "smart" palatal expander to help mold the palate to the correct size and shape. This smart microprocessor would measure data on palatal development in all directions (instead of the conventional left to right measurement) and transmit that data to orthodontists. Nervina, along with two others from U-M were recently awarded a two-year, \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to conduct this pioneering research. Read more about Nervina's idea [here](#).

## National News

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### CDC to Keep Division of Oral Health Plans for Downgrading Have Been Stopped

Earlier this month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that the agency will keep its Division of Oral Health (DOH). Until this announcement, the DOH was to be downgraded as a branch of another

division, which marks the second attempt by CDC leaders to do so within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). By maintaining the DOH as its own separate entity, the importance of oral health within the HHS and CDC has been reinforced.

Read the full [article](#) or the CDC's [Oral Health Strategic Plan for 2011-2014](#)

## New Mouthwash May Eliminate Tooth Decay

### **Battles Against *Streptococcus mutans* Bacteria**

The results of a recent [clinical study](#) may have huge implications in how we combat tooth decay. An experimental mouthwash, developed by Wenyuan Shi, chair of the oral biology section at the UCLA School of Dentistry, was tested on 12 subjects. With just one rinse, the mouthwash almost completely eliminated the *S. mutans* bacteria (the principal cause of tooth decay and cavities) over the entire four-day testing period. The mouthwash works by using an antimicrobial technology called STAMP (specifically targeted anti-microbial peptides), which acts as a kind of "smart bomb" by eliminating only harmful bacteria in the mouth. For more information on Shi's mouthwash, click [here](#).

## International Mercury Treaty May Affect Use of Amalgam

### **ADA Voicing Concerns of U.S. Dental Profession**

Dental amalgam, which contains mercury and is used for dental fillings, is one of the key issues in negotiations for an international mercury treaty. The American Dental Association sent two staff representatives to the international meeting and is reportedly making progress in increasing recognition that amalgam is needed for public health. A recent [World Health Organization report](#) said that while dental restorations are still necessary, they recommend a "phasing down" of dental amalgam. If this phasing down were to occur, ADA, along with the World Dental Federation and the International Association of Dental Research, feel that this should be accompanied by a "phase-up" of dental preventive programs. This meeting was third in a series of five, with the goal of creating an international mercury accord. The next session is scheduled to take place in June. For full article, click [here](#).

## Fluoride Will Not Be Added to State Carcinogen List

### **California's Prop 65 Maintains Fluoride's Safety**

Despite anti-fluoride activist claims of a fluoride-cancer link, California's Carcinogen Identification Committee decided not to add fluoride to its list of known carcinogens under Prop 65 (the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986). This unanimous decision was made after committee members reviewed scientific studies on fluoride and heard testimonies from many leading dental associations and foundations. While 20 chemicals have been added to the list this year, the exclusion of fluoride further strengthens evidence of its safety. For full article, click [here](#).

## ADA Urges Caution When Using Dental Groupons

### **Possible Legal Issues**

While groupons or other similar services have become an increasingly popular way to save money in today's tough economy, the use of dental groupons may raise legal issues in some states. According to an [ADA article](#), laws in many states "prohibit or restrict the awarding of gifts as a means of soliciting patients or prohibit fee splitting between dentists and a

### Staff

**Karlene Ketola**  
*Executive Director*

**Alexandra Yeadon**  
*Healthcare  
Communications  
Intern*

third party." Although there has been no official determination as to whether these practices are illegal, the ADA urges those in the dental profession to be aware of both state and federal professional conduct laws before using these channels to promote dental services.

## Motivational Interviewing Useful in Treating Periodontal Patients

### Leads to Improved Oral Hygiene and Patient Satisfaction

Results of a recent [study](#) show that motivational interviewing may improve compliance with plaque control among patients with periodontitis. The randomized controlled clinical trial included a control group, which received standard consultation, and an experimental group, which underwent a motivational interview in addition to the standard consultation. After 1 month, patients in the experimental group had a higher oral hygiene improvement and greater satisfaction scores, concluding that this technique may be useful for counseling patients with periodontal disorders. Click [here](#) for full article.

## ADA Seeks to Provide Structure for Teledentistry

### Resolution to Study Teledentistry in Dental Practice

The American Dental Association's 2011 House of Delegates adopted a resolution to investigate the use of teledentistry in dental practices. Joining the larger field of telemedicine, teledentistry uses information technology and telecommunications for dental care and consultation. Teledentistry potentially has the ability to offer more convenient care, reduce travel costs and lost work time, provide more continuity of care and increase patient compliance. Additionally, the practice may help increase access in rural and other underserved areas. While teledentistry could eliminate many barriers in oral health care by allowing information to be directly shared from one location to another, a regulatory structure first needs to be instated, which is something the ADA is investigating. For the full ADA article, click [here](#).

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition's mission is to improve oral health in Michigan by focusing on prevention, health promotion, oral health data, access and the link between oral health and overall health.

### **Michigan Oral Health Coalition**

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