

## QuickBites

### Have a question about your profession or your practice?

Contact us first! The ODA is the primary resource for Ohio dentists. Most likely, we can answer your question or direct you to the appropriate source.

Our staff members are experts in answering questions about insurance issues, COVID-19 regulations, regulatory compliance, legal issues and more. We're available by phone or email to provide personal assistance as a benefit of your membership.

**Contact us:**

- Phone: (800) 282-1526
- Email: [dentist@oda.org](mailto:dentist@oda.org)
- Website: [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org)

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# 2021 ODA Annual Session to feature in-person, virtual components

By ODA Staff

The ODA Annual Session Committee is planning a hybrid event for the 2021 ODA Annual Session, which will include both in-person and virtual components to the meeting.

The 2021 ODA Annual Session will feature excellent CE opportunities for the entire dental team in person and online, the ability to shop in the Exhibit Hall, and chances to reconnect with colleagues and friends in person.

Our in-person convention will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Columbus Downtown Hotel from Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

We are planning an Annual Session that is safe, engaging and educational, and we are excited for the 2021 meeting. All plans are contingent on restrictions that may be in place at that time.

"I am so looking forward to catching up with all of you at our upcoming annual sessions and to join you in celebrating our comeback year; we have quite a celebration planned! From our acclaimed keynote speaker Bertice Berry, to a night of laughs with comedian Greg Hahn, to our Women in Dentistry Symposium with Dr. O'Loughlin, and to our star studded cast of continuing education instructors, we intend to make this an event not to be forgotten," Said Dr. Lori Fitzgerald, general chair of the 2021 ODA Annual Session. "Check out the Short North with its new hotels, restaurants, and bars and stay for the Callahan Awards of Excellence



ODA Staff

Hands-on workshops will be a highlight of the 2021 ODA Annual Session, which will feature online and in-person courses.



CONNECT. LEARN. EXCEL.

Dinner (watch for other fun surprises surrounding this event). Register and help make this a monumental event for all."

**Attend CE in person**

Scheduled in-person speakers include

Dr. Uche Odiatu; Dr. Stanley Malamed; Dr. Bill Scarfe; Dr. Jamison Spencer; Dr. Josh Austin; Judy Bendit, RDH; Judy Kay Mausoff; Shannon Nanne, RDH; Tija Hunter, CDA; and Christine Taxin.

Participation workshops will be a highlight of this year's Annual Session with many speakers offering hands-on opportunities and hard-to-find workshops directed separately to hygienists and dental assistants.

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# Graduating dental students faced uncertainty, challenges during their final year

By Jackie Best Crowe  
ODA Managing Editor

Over the last year, dentists across Ohio have faced many unexpected challenges amidst the pandemic. For graduating dental students, their final year of dental school has looked much different than expected.

"Being a dental student during the COVID-19 pandemic has been filled with uncertainty. It has required patience and understanding that the situation was and still is constantly evolving," said Scott Balzer, a graduating dental student at The Ohio State University.

It all started in March 2020, when, like dental offices across the state, clinics were closed and in-person classes were halted.

"Of course, when clinic was announced to be closed in March, it was stressful to think that we had just started to feel confident seeing real patients as third-year students and now we were going to be deprived of that indefinitely," said Alyzah Quereshy, a graduating dental student at Case Western Reserve University. "However, it was comforting knowing that our thousands of colleagues

across the country were faced with the same challenges."

Janell Herron, a graduating dental student at The Ohio State University, said there was a lot of uncertainty during the summer of 2020.

"Our class left for spring break in March of 2020 and was not allowed back until the end of summer semester," Herron said. "The summer going into D4 year is the time where the previous D4 class is gone and the D3 students are not in the clinic yet, so it is typically a good time for the new D4s to get a jump start on requirements while the clinic is less busy. Without this time in clinic, questions about requirements and if we would even graduate on time were always in debate."

Many dental students tried to make the most of the extra time off last spring and summer. Herron said she worked as a substitute hygienist in the community, and Quereshy spent time studying for a major board exam, working with her brother on a research project for the "Journal of Clinical Anesthesia," applying for residencies and spending time with her family.

Both dental schools returned in August 2020, and students had to make adjust-

ments to accommodate safety precautions and complete their graduation requirements.

"Once we returned, we didn't know how or if graduation requirements would be altered, but we were determined to get as much clinical experience as possible with the remaining time we had in school," Balzer said.

Safety measures were enhanced at both schools, including daily health checks and weekly COVID-19 tests for the students, limits on the number of patients who could be seen, and only non-aerosolized procedures were used at first.

"Given that our clinical curriculum was shortened by several months, it has been incredibly busy since we re-opened in the end of August," Quereshy said. "The combination of making up for lost time while also trying to make sure we are clinically competent AND confident has definitely made for an intense final year. Fortunately, our school was able to work with us closely and make the necessary accommodations to make sure we are well-prepared clinicians for the 'real world.'"

The pandemic also canceled all of the typi-

See **GRADUATES**, page 4



REGISTRATION  
AVAILABLE JUNE 1  
AT [WWW.ODA.ORG](http://WWW.ODA.ORG)



### The Director's Chair

David J. Owsiany, JD  
ODA Executive Director

## Dental profession continues to shine during COVID-19 pandemic

According to a recent report from the Ohio Department of Health, 413 Ohio dentists have already registered and been accepted into the Medical Reserve Corps via the Ohio Responds Registry to administer COVID vaccines at mass vaccination events. This is just one more example of how the dental profession has responded to assist in addressing the various issues that have arisen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the early days of the pandemic, in order to preserve much-needed personal protective equipment, dentists were required to delay elective procedures and surgeries. However, the ODA worked with state officials to make sure dentists were able to provide emergency care to patients. We explained that certain oral health issues, including those involv-

ing pain and infection, needed to be addressed and should not be delayed. Moreover, we knew that providing such emergency care would keep those patients away from the hospital emergency rooms, many of which were experiencing crowding issues as COVID-19 cases were spiking in the early days of the pandemic.

In addition to continuing to provide emergency care, many dentists responded to the call to donate PPE items to local emergency management agencies, hospitals, nursing homes and other similar facilities. During the month of April 2020, Ohio dentists donated more than 130,000 pairs of gloves and nearly 40,000 facemasks to assist various caregivers who were testing and treating suspected COVID-19 patients.

In January of this year, the ODA urged the Ohio Department of Health to allow dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines at mass vaccination events in Ohio. Shortly thereafter, the state of Ohio granted authorization to dentists and dental hygienists to administer COVID vaccines at such events during the state's current state of emergency related to

the pandemic. As communities across the state are now holding mass vaccination events in order to efficiently deliver COVID-19 vaccines to Ohioans, I was not surprised to see that more than 400 dentists (and about 100 dental hygienists) have registered with the Medical Reserve Corps in order to administer vaccines at mass vaccination events.

Several dentists have already reported participating in such events, including ODA Treasurer Dr. Mannish Chopra, a prosthodontist from the Cincinnati area, and former ODA officer Dr. Najia Usman, an endodontist from Medina. They report that after signing up with Ohio's Medical Reserve Corps, they took required online training and then were contacted about participating in vaccination events in their communities. Both of them report that it was a rewarding experience to be able to provide vaccines at the events and give back to their communities during the pandemic.

It is no surprise that even in the most trying of times, the dental profession continues to step up to do great things for their local communities.



### President's Message

David Kimberly, DDS, MD  
ODA President

## The theory of special relativity

*"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?" -Dr. Seuss*

Truth be told, I think deeply about nothing quite a bit. Often I find myself sitting quietly in my office thinking about the most random abstract concepts, much to the consternation of my wife. The grass continues to grow. The weeds continue to flourish in the beds. And the dripping

sink in the guest bathroom isn't fixing itself. Yet there I sit. I ask my wife to hire the kid down the street to mow and weed the yard and call the plumber to fix the faucet. Can't she see I'm busy trying to understand the nature of the universe?

This is the kind of thing I sit and think about. In the early 20th century, Albert Einstein developed the theory of special relativity. Basically it is a theory trying to explain the relationship between space and time. I've read quite a bit on the subject and the more I read about it the more clear it becomes to me it's a good thing I'm a dentist and not a mathematician or physicist. When I break it down to its essential parts the theory works like this. Time is relative to the speed at which one is traveling relative to whatever object is emitting the photon one is observing. This is an egregious over simplification to be certain, but like I said, I'm no mathematician.

Allow me to explain my perspective of time relativity. Let us look at time with regard to proximity. My observations go something like this. We all have experienced time standing still. Who hasn't been trapped in a corner at a social event by

some well meaning but socially clueless guest that can't read the glazed look in your eyes for what it is, a desperate plea for a merciful exit to the bar. For future reference, just walk away. I probably won't even notice. I personally have had the joyful experience of time seeming to fly. When? Obviously every minute I have spent in the presence of my wife and children, but the instance that stands out most is this. As a surgery resident, I would fly from Omaha, Nebraska to Cleveland, Ohio to see my family. I did it a couple times a year and it was drudgery. Always long flights, on dirty crowded planes and usually after a 36-hour shift. This particular time I was on a Southwest flight. The front bulkhead had six seats, three facing forward and three facing aft. As luck would have it, on this trip three very attractive young ladies sat in that area along with me. One was an aeronautical engineer that specialized in solid fuel propulsion (a rocket scientist). One was a French trained chef. And one was an editor for a publishing company who was writing her first novel. When the plane touched down

See RELATIVITY, page 3

### ANNUAL SESSION, from page 1

#### Attend CE online

All paid registrants will have access to more than 25 hours of online CE courses, included free with their Annual Session registration fee. Online CE courses will be available from Sept. 30-Dec. 31, 2021.

Online courses will include a 2-hour opioid required course directed to dental hygienists, and the highly sought after Oral Health Access Supervision Program (OHASP) course.

#### Shop the Exhibit Hall

The 2021 ODA Annual Session will feature both a live and virtual Exhibit Hall, included free with the cost of registration.

The virtual Exhibit Hall will be available online Sept. 30 through the end of the year.

On-site Exhibit Hall hours will be:

- Thursday, Sept. 30 from 12-6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Keynote speakers

New this year, the ODA Annual Ses-

sion will feature two free live keynote speakers:

- Comedian Greg Hahn will perform on Thursday, Sept. 30 at 5:15 p.m.
- Motivational speaker Bertice Berry, PhD, will present "Navigating Life in a New World of Normals" on Friday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m.

ODA Annual Session registrants will be able to watch these live keynote presentations in-person or virtually.

#### Special events

The ODA Annual Session is also expected to feature several special events, including:

- The New Dentist Social on Thursday, Sept. 30.
- The Women in Dentistry Symposium on Friday, Oct. 1, at 2:30 p.m. This event is scheduled to feature ADA Executive Director Dr. Kathleen T. O'Loughlin.
- MATCH @ ODA Annual Session on Friday, Oct. 1.
- The Callahan Celebration of Excellence on Friday Oct. 1.
- The Bash! on Friday, Oct. 1.

#### Register for the 2021 ODA Annual Session

Registration for the 2021 ODA Annual Session will open on June 1.

The registration fee for the 2021 ODA Annual Session includes:

- Attendance at the in-person Annual Session in Columbus and the ability to register for in-person CE courses.
- Access to up to 25 hours of free CE available online through December 31.
- Access to our in-person and virtual Exhibit Halls.

Register by Aug. 13 to receive an early bird discount:

- Dental staff: \$75.
- ADA/ODA members: \$125.

Full information will be available on June 1 at [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org). The ODA will not be mailing a printed program this year.

The ODA is continuing to monitor restrictions on large gatherings in Ohio and expects to have limited class sizes to accommodate social distancing. Because of this, we recommend you register early to secure your seat in our most popular courses.

## ODA TODAY

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**Legal Briefs**

**Eric S. Richmond , Esq.**  
ODA Director of Legal & Legislative Services

## ODA Virtual Day at the Statehouse

When this article reaches the press many of you will have already met with your legislators in this year’s Ohio Dental Association Day at the Statehouse, while some of you may have meetings later this month. I want to thank those who participated and make sure that all members are aware of the important function this day serves. I am hopeful that next year we will be able to have our in-person meeting in Columbus and go to visit with our legislators face to face. The interaction between members of the ODA and members of the general assembly is so powerful. When a constituent speaks to a legislator on an issue that is happening in their practice the legislator can tie that issue directly to their district.

If there are any dentists that would still like to meet with legislators this month, please contact the ODA and we can discuss meetings throughout the month of May. Due to the virtual aspect this year we are able to coordinate meetings for a longer time period instead of just one day in Columbus. In our meetings we will be discussing two topics that have great importance to each dental professional in the state.

The issues on the table for Day at the Statehouse are non-covered services and dental therapists. Non-covered services

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I couldn’t believe it! We couldn’t be in Cleveland already?! I almost wept. As for the young ladies, they didn’t wait for the plane to stop before getting out of their seats. My guess is they experienced the other end of the time spectrum ... think of the cocktail party scenario ... but I digress.

Looking at time with regard to perspective. Time in retrospect is considerably condensed. I have been in private practice for 20 years now. It seems like yesterday that I came “hat in hand” asking to join the practice that now cloaks me like my favorite sweater or my well-worn weekend loafers. How quickly that happened. I won’t practice for another 20 years but retirement seems miles away. How strange that is. My friend Dr. Joe Mellion, a past president of this organization, mentioned to me at our last Akron Dental Society meeting that it has been 16 years since he was our leader. Again I ask, were did those years go? Time moves at an insidious pace, which brings me to the important message here. If the yesterdays go by too quickly, and we know that today will be yesterday when the sun rises tomorrow, can our future leaders wait another day to get involved? Can TODAY’S leaders miss TODAY’S opportunity to reach out and make the connection with our profession’s future?

Dr. Seuss asked, “How did it get so late so soon?” Dr. Kimberly’s answer, “We do at night what we should do noon.”

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legislation aims to end the practice of insurance companies setting fees for dental services that they do not cover. This practice by insurance companies interferes with the dentist patient relationship by making it cost prohibitive to offer certain services to patients. Further, due to the insurance companies offering a take it or leave it contract, dentists are forced to either continue under the current system or lose parts of their patient population by not accepting certain insurance. Outside of the insurance issue, a patient safety issue has reappeared with the idea of dental therapists. Although no legislation has been introduced this general assembly, there have been a few articles around the Statehouse about the subject. It is important to let legislators know that someone with just a few years of training out of high school should not be doing irreversible surgical procedures.

We will continue to work on these issues and update membership on legislative advances. Thank you all for your work at Day at the Statehouse. If you have any questions about advocacy, legislation or anything related to Day at the Statehouse please contact me at (614) 486-2700 or at [eric@oda.org](mailto:eric@oda.org).

## American Dental Association launches new dental insurance hub

By ODA Staff

**MEMBER BENEFIT BUZZ**

The ADA has recently launched a new dental insurance hub to help dentists and their teams overcome dental insurance obstacles so they can focus on patient care.

The hub includes on-demand webinars, helpful articles, and downloadable guides for common dental insurance issues, including assistance with provider contracts, dental benefits questions, and more. The hub also includes information about the ADA’s lobbying efforts to achieve key legislative policy reforms related to dental insurance issues.


Access the ADA’s new dental insurance hub at <https://www.ada.org/en/>

member-center/member-benefits/practice-resources/dental-insurance.

The ODA also provides resources to help our members navigate insurance issues, including personal assistance from ODA staff or the Dental Insurance Working Group with insurance issues, contract analysis and information via the Dental Insurance Corner. To learn more about these resources, visit <https://www.oda.org/member-center/resources/dental-insurance-assistance/>.

These ODA and ADA dental insurance resources are free to members as a benefit of membership.


[www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org)



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**GRADUATES, from page 1**

cal social events that occur during senior year for dental students.

"The goal has been to only be at school if absolutely necessary, so the social aspect to the beginning of our senior year really went to the wayside," Herron said. "Our class has been very tight knit, so it was sad to not be able to continue the social aspect of school and keep up with student organizations and social events. Although the pandemic took a toll on all of us in some way, we have accomplished a lot together and I think that makes our class really special."

New this year, students were able to take a manikin-based licensing exam instead of a live patient exam because of the pandemic. The ODA has a long-standing policy in favor of "elimination of clinical examinations using live patients and replacing them with other assessment methods."

"The class of 2021 had the option to take the manikin-based or live patient exam. I chose to take the manikin-based exam," Herron said. "It definitely took the stress of finding a patient away and minimized the potential risk of spreading COVID on test day. In my own practice of patients at school I had a fair number of patients cancel appointments due to coming down with COVID or discovering they had an exposure, so it was nice to not have to worry if the patient was going to be able to make it to the appointment or not."

Balzer said he was unsure what to expect with the testing teeth since the students had never practiced on them, but found them to be similar to working on real teeth.

"The simulated caries in the tooth were accurately located and felt very similar to caries in an actual tooth," he said. "I felt like I could adequately display my competence in performing caries excavation and the restoration."

Graduation will also look different for students this year.

At Case Western Reserve University,

an in-person ceremony will be held for dental students only and will not include any guests or the ceremonious hooding.

"Graduation day was supposed to be a big day for me and my family as I was looking forward to having my parents hood me on this special day," Quereshy said (both of Quereshy's parents are dentists and active ODA members). "Nonetheless it will still be a big day to mark the beginning of my professional career."

At The Ohio State University, the College of Dentistry will have an in-person ceremony and each graduate will be able to invite two guests. Four faculty members will wear masks, face shields and gloves to hood the graduates. ODA President Dr. David Kimberly has been invited to attend as a special dignitary to demonstrate the continued relationship between the OSU College of Dentistry and the ODA.

"While it will have a different feel, I am very thankful that graduation will be in-person so I can share the moment with my classmates and parents," Balzer said.

The pandemic also influenced some students' plans for after graduation and created additional challenges.

"I had always planned on completing a one-year GPR or AEGD program," Balzer

said. "The pandemic and the reduction of clinical experiences only added to my confidence that pursuing a year of post-doctoral education and training was the correct decision. The pandemic did add challenges while searching for the right program. Many programs were not allowing students to observe or complete an externship to evaluate the program. I spent a lot of time reaching out to program directors and current/former residents to get a feel for each program that I applied to."

Herron said she had been undecided about whether she wanted to pursue a residency program or go into practice after graduation, and ultimately the pandemic helped her decide to go into private practice.

"Initially I had plans to research residency programs. With how much variability there are between programs, I wanted to experience them firsthand, but with COVID I knew I was not going to be able to travel, so I spent more time job searching and catching up in clinic at school than applying to residencies," she said. "I am happy with the route I am taking being an associate as a general dentist here in Columbus, Ohio. Although I was unsure

if I wanted to do a residency or not from the beginning, the pandemic steered me in the direction of not applying for one, which I think ultimately was the right path for me!"

Although it was a difficult year, dental students made the most of their final year in school.

"I have always told people that being a student (at any level) during the pandemic was an extremely challenging time," Quereshy said. "From virtual learning to curtailed clinic experiences, my classmates and I were forced to adapt to a situation that no other class that preceded us had to go through."

Blazer said that "despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented, I believe that graduates from the class of 2021 showed that we value receiving a complete education. We emphasized multiple times to administration that, while we knew some clinical requirements would be adjusted, we wanted as many clinical experiences as possible. Patients deserve quality care and graduates from the class of 2021 will deliver just that. We did not want to take the easy way out and understand that the practice of dentistry is a life-long endeavor."

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**Ohio Dental Association**  
(800) 282-1526 or (614) 486-2700

**Ohio Dental Association Services Corp. Inc. (ODASC)**  
(800) 282-1526 or (614) 486-2700

**Ohio State Dental Board**  
(614) 466-2580

**Staffed Dental Societies:**  
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**Stark County Dental Society**  
(330) 305-6637

**Toledo Dental Society**  
(419) 474-8489

## New graduates may be eligible for malpractice insurance at no cost to them

Dentists who are new graduates, former ASDA members and current ODA members may be eligible to have their first year of malpractice insurance coverage to be prepaid by the ODA.

Through this program, the ODA provides new graduates with their first year of malpractice coverage through MedPro at no cost to them (subject to underwriting guidelines). Members can choose from occurrence or claims-made coverage.

Dentists who are planning to hire a new graduate as an associate can also take advantage of this benefit when providing malpractice insurance for their new employee.

MedPro is the Ohio Dental Association Services Corp.'s endorsed company for professional liability coverage for ODA members.

For more details on this program and to see if you qualify, contact the ODA at (800) 282-1526 or email [stacyc@oda.org](mailto:stacyc@oda.org).

## Apply for a scholarship from the ODA Foundation

Applications for the ODA Foundation's 2021 scholarships are due June 23.

Available scholarship opportunities for 2021 include:

- Dental Student Scholarship for dental students who are Ohio residents, members of ASDA and who will be D2s, D3s and D4s in Fall 2021.
- Mercer Leadership Scholarship for OSU dental students entering their D4 year in Fall 2021 who have been Ohio residents for at least five years, are members of ASDA and have a commitment to leadership in dental school and their community.
- Community Dental Health Coordinator Scholarship for individuals applying to a CDHC program who currently are employed by Ohio oral health related organizations.

The deadline for all scholarship applications is June 23 at 5 p.m.

Scholarship application packets can be downloaded at <https://www.oda.org/get-involved/with-the-oda-foundation/scholarships-grants/>.

## Looking to hire a new staff member? Post an ad on our new Jobs & Ads Board

The Ohio Dental Association Jobs & Ads Board makes it easy to find and post job listings and other advertisements. The job board also includes a section for dental staff member job postings. Staff job postings are available online only.

Members can place a 40-word job posting on the site for one month for a discounted rate of \$55 (compared to \$88 for non-members), with each additional word costing \$1.

The ODA plans to market the postings on Facebook and to Ohio dental hygiene and assisting schools.

To place a text ad on our Jobs & Ads Board, visit [www.oda.org/jobs-ads/place-an-advertisement/text-ads/](http://www.oda.org/jobs-ads/place-an-advertisement/text-ads/) or contact Amy Szmania at (800) 282-1526 or email [amy@oda.org](mailto:amy@oda.org).

## ODA Meeting & Event Calendar

### May

- 3 ADA Leadership Nomination Committee
- 7 Council on Membership Services
- 10 ODA Foundation
- 10 Subcouncil on New Dentists
- 10-14 ODA Virtual Day at the Statehouse
- 12 Dental Education and Licensure
- 21 ODA Virtual Leadership Institute
- 24 Ad Interim and Strategic Planning Committee
- 24 Executive Committee and ODA Foundation
- 26 Subcouncil on Diversity and Inclusion
- 31 ODA closed for holiday

### Jun.

- 17 Task Force on Auxiliary Utilization and Access to Care

*In order to limit personal contact, the ODA is currently holding all meetings virtually.*

## New training module helps providers understand barriers for immigrant families

A new training module for dentists and team members who provide care for patients covered by Medicaid is available to help increase provider awareness of barriers that may compromise the quality, accessibility and appropriateness of healthcare services for immigrant families.

In the MPATHI simulation, designed for English-speaking providers who do not speak Spanish, participants assume the role of a parent seeking dental care for a child in a Spanish-speaking country. They experience some of the challenges immigrant families face in obtaining healthcare in a foreign country, including financial barriers, language and cultural barriers, limited understanding of the healthcare system, and lower health literacy.

To view the training, visit <http://mpathi.nchri.org/>.

Nationwide Children's Hospital Department of Pediatric Dentistry through collaboration with Research IT R&D, the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's and partnership with The Ohio State University created the training module. The Medicaid Equity Simulation Project is funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and administered by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center. Views expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not represent those of the state of Ohio or federal Medicaid programs.

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## Dental Insurance Corner

# State of Ohio announces preliminary selections of HMOs to administer Ohio's Medicaid managed care program

By Christopher A. Moore, MA  
ODA Director of Dental Services

In early April the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) announced which insurance companies it has preliminarily selected to administer the \$20 billion managed care or Medicaid HMO portion of Ohio's Medicaid program.

They are AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio, Inc.; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; CareSource Ohio, Inc.; Humana Health Plan of Ohio, Inc.; Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc.; and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio, Inc. The selection of these managed care plans is preliminary at this time and will not be finalized until contracts with them are signed. Once the contracts are signed, these companies will begin covering Medicaid eligible patients in early 2022.

ODM has deferred making a final decision at this time on Buckeye Community Health Plan and is neither issuing nor denying an award to that company. ODM has left open its ability to provide additional consideration to Buckeye based on the claims by the Ohio Attorney General, ODM and the State of Ohio in litigation recently filed in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and other factors.

ODM also considered but opted to not award contracts to Aetna Better

Health of Ohio, Medical Mutual of Ohio, Ohio Employee Health Partnership and Paramount Advantage.

Companies that were not awarded a contract had until mid/late April to file a protest.

Medicaid eligible patients will not lose coverage but will continue to receive services with their current Medicaid HMO until the transition takes place in early 2022. Patients will have the opportunity to select a new plan during the 2021 open enrollment period later this summer. Patients who do not select a plan will be automatically assigned to a Medicaid HMO.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio (MyCare); Buckeye Community Health Plan; CareSource Ohio, Inc.; Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc.; Paramount Advantage; and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio, Inc. currently cover Ohioans in the Medicaid managed care program.

Billions of dollars of taxpayer money and experience from the last time the state bid out the Medicaid managed care program contracts prompted ODM officials to acknowledge that one or possibly more legal challenges involving ODM's selection of the winning bids are likely this time around.

Ohio Medicaid covers 3.2 million people (or about one in four Ohioans) with low incomes or certain disabilities. Medicaid provides health insurance for almost

half of the state's children while paying for 50% of Ohio births. It also covers most residents of Ohio's long-term-care facilities. About 90% of those covered by Ohio Medicaid are in the managed care program and receive their benefits from Medicaid HMOs. Ohioans who are not in the managed care program receive their benefits from the fee-for-service system, which is administered by the state government.

ODM's announcement of the winning bids resulted from a two plus year procurement process that was initiated by Gov. Mike DeWine's directive that ODM revamp the state's Medicaid managed care program. The process included 17 listening sessions across the state, soliciting input through two requests for information (RFI), which generated over 1,000 pieces of feedback from providers, Medicaid members and advocates and meeting with providers and provider associations. The ODA provided formal, written recommendations though both RFIs and ODA representatives provided recommendations to ODM through a

provider listening session.

In announcing their MCO contract selections, ODM officials stressed the new system will focus on people and not just the business of managed care and noted the new program is expected to:

- Improve wellness and health outcomes.
- Emphasize a personalized care experience.
- Support providers in better patient care.
- Improve care for children and adults with complex needs.
- Increase program transparency and accountability.

ODM is moving forward with its plans to centralize the credentialing and re-credentialing of dentists and other providers with a planned go-live date of July 26, 2021. Once implemented, dentists will only need to supply credentialing and re-credentialing information to ODM, rather than go through a separate credentialing and re-credentialing

See MEDICAID, page 7

ODA members who would like to submit a dental insurance related question, problem or concern may do so by sending the appropriate information to the ODA Dental Insurance Working Group, 1370 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215, or 614-486-0381 FAX, or [chrism@oda.org](mailto:chrism@oda.org). To see past issues of the Dental Insurance Corner, visit [www.oda.org/news](http://www.oda.org/news) and choose the category "ODA Today" and subcategory "Dental Insurance Corner."



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**MEDICAID, from page 6**

process with each managed care plan. The Medicaid HMOs will not be permitted to implement their own or a secondary credentialing process though they will still maintain control over their own business processes related to contracting of providers, e.g., deciding whether to actually enroll a dentist into their network or not. ODM's stated intentions are consistent with the credentialing recommendations the ODA has previously made to the department.

ODM is also moving ahead with plans for all Medicaid managed care claims and prior authorization requests to be submitted to a single fiscal intermediary and not directly to the patient's Medicaid HMO or managed care organization (MCO). The fiscal intermediary will serve as a single clearinghouse for all claims and prior authorization requests, validating transactions and routing requests to the appropriate Medicaid HMO for resolution and reimbursement. ODM hopes that in addition to streamlining the claims process, the fiscal intermediary will strengthen the department's real time ability to assess compliance with Medicaid managed care

regulations, review encounter data and track performance measures.

ODM anticipates that, for dentists and other providers, "the fiscal intermediary will:

- Lighten the administrative load: Providers will submit and monitor all claims and prior authorization requests through a single system vs having to manage these transactions with each individual MCO.
- Streamline and standardize the prior authorization process: Ohio Medicaid will require MCOs to develop necessary electronic exchanges to assist with coordinating service authorization requests through ODM's fiscal intermediary.
- Provide timely updates on claims and prior authorization status: Providers will have an opportunity to correct claims errors that lead to denials and expedite the review and reimbursement cycle."

Gainwell Technologies has been selected by ODM to serve as the fiscal intermediary.

Currently, the Medicaid HMOs reimburse dentists on a fee-for-service basis using fees that mirror the Medicaid fee-for-service program's fee schedule. The state of Ohio has announced under the new program that the MCOs will have "more flexibility in establishing alternative payment models with providers who focus on patient care and improve outcomes." It is unknown at this time if and how any alternative payment models will be applied to the dental care reimbursement system.

Press reports have also indicated that provider advisory councils will be set up in the new system so that providers can be heard by the insurance companies.

While less directly impactful on dentists, it should also be noted that as part of the procurement process ODM also selected Myers and Stauffer as its Pharmacy Pricing and Audit Consultant (formerly known as Pharmacy Operational Support Vendor); Aetna Better Health of Ohio as the specialized managed care organization for the state's children with the most complex behavioral health needs under the new OhioRISE (Ohio Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) program; and Gainwell Technologies as the state's single pharmacy benefits manager (PBM).

The state is also now requiring the MCOs to "collaborate with other Medicaid plans and community partners to have a collective impact on member health. This includes a provision that plans must contribute three percent of annual profits (which will rise to five percent in later years of the contract) to community reinvestment."

The ODA's Medicaid Working Group provided input to all of the ODA's interactions with ODM during the procurement process. The working group will continue to monitor the new program's implementation, provide the membership with additional information concerning it as it becomes available and advocate on the dental profession's behalf as any issues associated with the program's implementation are identified.

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## Strength in numbers

By Dr. Bruce Grbach  
ODPAC Chair

Strength in numbers may be an odd term for dentists since we spend most of our time in a one-on-one relationship with our patients. Many of us practice in solo offices, some of us practice in partnerships with a few other dentists and more and more of us practice in larger group dental practices. When we consider the size of our state government and the associated state agencies that control how we practice dentistry, even the largest group practice is dwarfed in comparison.

As a member of the Ohio Dental Association and when you contribute to the Ohio Dental Political Action Committee, you have a strong voice at the governor's office, in the state legislature and in the other state agencies that oversee dental practices. You also have a voice on the national level where the American Dental Political Action Committee advocates and supports legislators who support issues like children's dental health, fair trade practices between dentists and insurers and student loan fairness for young dentists.

In joining the Ohio Dental Political Action Committee you create strength in numbers. Annual contributions allow us to pool our funds together and support elected state government officials and state legislators who understand and support our right to practice dentistry without undue burdens. It also allows us to contribute to ADPAC as a group so they can support national legislators who support dental issues.

The past year has been a challenging year for most of us. Without the ODA lobbying team, led by our Executive Director David Owsiany and our Director of Legal and Legislative Services Eric Richmond, it could have been a lot worse. When we were mandated by Gov. DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health to shutter our dental practices and only preform emergency services, it was the ODA lobbying team that took action. Our lobbying team and ODA leadership advocated for us with the governor, the Ohio State Department of Health and the Ohio State Dental Board so that we could re-open our practices safely with reasonable controls to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Many of the elected officials who were instrumental in allowing us to return to work have been and will continue to be supported by ODPAC. Your contribution to ODPAC is used to help fund the election of the politicians who support our rights as practicing dentists and quality dental care for our patients. Lots of hours go into building relationships with these legislators and government officials to ensure that they understand the number of dentists that are supporting them. As we can see from the last year, the years of building relationships and supporting the correct politicians ensures that our voices are being heard.

I sincerely ask you to join the ODPAC team. We need your financial support and we need your voice at ODA events

See ODPAC, page 9

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## 3 reasons dental membership plans should be a priority

Submitted by DentalHQ

Over the past few years, the financial landscape for dental patients has been changing. With millennials and retirees on the rise, traditional coverage options are being relegated to the scrap heap. To keep your business ahead of the curve, dental membership plans should be a priority for your practice. Right now.

You may have noticed already that the steady rise of the freelance economy has been increasing your uninsured patient percentage for some time. But the number of patients without any dental coverage is about to spike like never before.

Why?

Well, there are a few reasons.

### #1: The gig economy is alive and well.

According to Wonolo, an on-demand staffing platform, growth in freelance workers is nearly doubling year-on-year. Members of all generations are recognizing the freedoms – and opportunities – that can come with “being your own boss.”

And they're liking it. 50 million gig workers are completely happy with their workload and pay, and only 30% would prefer a full-time position (from a Stride Health survey).

These insights, coupled with the knowledge that millennial and gen z professionals are generally less enamored by the 9-5 corporate format, suggest that the jumps we're seeing in gig workers, freelancers and solopreneurs will only continue to increase.

Not to mention, the 2020 factor.

### #2: The pandemic has left many without insurance.

In the wake of COVID-19, the economic impact on businesses and restrictions for health and safety resulted in some major changes to the workforce. Many individuals were laid off from their full-time positions and are either hunting for still-scarce jobs or pursuing gig work full-time (see section above). Others chose to follow that latter path intentionally for the sake of staying safe at home. Still more individuals have kept their jobs, but at the



cost of benefits, which many businesses sacrificed to cut costs enough that they could continue to pay salaries.

According to a recent survey compiled by Urban Institute from April 2020 to July 2020, more than 3 million people had lost employer-sponsored health insurance coverage as a result of the COVID-19 recession, and 2 million of those did not transition into a new insurance option.

These situations, while each unique, all create one common reality for those within them: no dental insurance.

### #3 The virus influenced our perspective on health – for the better.

The interesting foil to the above is that people are more aware of their health, and how crucial health care is, than ever. The varying symptoms and long-term implications of COVID-19 have opened up a conversation about how all aspects of our health are intertwined and preventive care is essential to keeping major problems at bay over the course of lifetime.

So, even though many of your patients may now be without insurance, their motivation to seek out and maintain dental care is likely trending upward. Longtime patients will be more inclined to schedule cleanings and keep the appointments. Individuals who haven't gone to the dentist in a while – whether because of a lack of insurance or a fear/dislike of going – might have a different perspective in the wake of such a health crisis.

### OK, so what does all of this mean for you and your practice?

It means you're being given an opportunity to evolve.

If ever there were a time to give the business side of your practice ample attention, it's now. The traditions of the dental profession have drastically changed over the past few years. Just ask our CEO, Dr. Brett Wells. A practicing dentist, he founded

DentalHQ as a response to a market of patients that is vastly different than it was even five years ago. The beginning of this decade promises to alter this aspect of the dental profession even further.

More uninsured patients than ever means less reliance on insurance than ever. This is a very good thing. Less reliance on insurance means your patients save money, you control your reimbursements, and your team is more efficient. Also very good things.

But how do you financially care for those uninsured patients? Dental Membership Plans. By offering preventive services (generally, two cleanings, two exams, and a set of x-rays) for a monthly or annual rate, you turn your patients into members. When your patients become members, you create a direct relationship between you and them. They become more loyal to you; they see you more often; they accept treatment at a substantially higher rate.

And you don't have to sacrifice reimbursement rates.

It's time for you and your practice to grow. You're a great dentist, but you've got to be a great businessperson, too.

Imagine a day-to-day in which your office manager is more focused on positive patient interactions, genius marketing campaigns, and efficiency-improving process changes than confirming appointments and playing phone tag with insurance representatives. This is the kind of reality – built on smart use of time and talents; agile when needed – that your practice must achieve.

You're going to have more patients than ever before who don't have, or maybe don't even want, traditional dental insurance coverage, which makes for a unique business opportunity for dental practices: to own it all, from patient care to payment system. Dental membership plans are the key to opening that door, and the unique challenges of the past year make turning the knob even more relevant right now.

DentalHQ is the ODA Services Corp.-endorsed industry-leading membership plan platform. By offering the most flexible, comprehensive, and time-saving plan options, DentalHQ helps your practice increase patient care and case acceptance with your uninsured patients, while keeping you in control. For more information, and to schedule a one-one-one demo of the platform, visit [dentalhq.com/ohio](http://dentalhq.com/ohio).



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The Explorer

Matthew J. Messina, DDS  
Executive Editor

## Time to celebrate

It was time for spring cleaning and I was in the basement, dusting off some wine bottles that I have been storing. I don't have a big collection or large wine cellar, by any means, but there are wines that I have been storing for a while now. I got to reflecting on the labels and how I had picked up some of them. For me, the real value of wine is the story, not so much the taste of an individual bottle. I don't have a discriminating enough palate to really know the subtle differences. We have been to Napa Valley twice over the last 30 years and I treasure the memories of visiting certain vineyards with friends and learning about wine through the tastings. Wine has always been more about the experience than the specific taste.

Cleaning the bottles got me thinking about why I was saving the wine. At what time in the future will there be a better time to drink it? Now, it seems, is perfect to find a reason to drink good wine. It's high time to celebrate!

We have been starved of the chance to get together with friends and enjoy their company. There is nothing better than meeting with people and simply talking. The Dalai Lama said, "When you speak, you repeat what you know. When you listen, you learn something new." That's excellent advice. We certainly need to broaden our horizons and share experiences with others. There is a limit to how close that we can get on Zoom. The relationships we build through human touch and interaction so often center around food and drink. Since the dawn of recorded history, people have bonded around the cooking fire, telling stories of deeds great and small. It's time to return to that.

Driving back from visiting family in North Carolina last month, I was struck by the number of those green highway exit signs that call attention to the "Scenic Overlook Ahead." I just wanted to pull off and see what everyone was so excited about! Sadly, I didn't make the time because we needed to drive the 730 miles from Wilmington back to Columbus all on Sunday. I should make time on the trip to savor the experience rather than watch the mountains fly by at 70 miles an hour.

I guess, we have been led to believe that we need to have a reason to celebrate. I'm coming to the conclusion that it's up to me to create the events to celebrate. If they aren't just waiting there for me, then it's OK to find something and just call over friends to make a big deal out of it. Someone had to be the first person to say, "Wow, that's a pretty view! Maybe we should put up a road sign and invite other people to see it too!" If we're going to stop and smell the roses, someone had

to plant the roses in the first place.

I'm going to commit to finding reasons to drink the good wine, metaphorically and physically. To stop and look at the view. Breaking up the journey to celebrate is worthwhile and a completely normal, human thing to do. We have lost a year with friends and family. Now is the time to get that back. I'm going to open an excellent bottle and savor the experience with friends, creating new stories and the memories that go with them. Anyone interested?

Dr. Messina may be reached at [docmessina87@gmail.com](mailto:docmessina87@gmail.com).

Access articles from current and past issues of "ODA Today" by visiting [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org).



### ODPAC, from page 8

like ODA Day at the Statehouse. Annually we visit our legislators in Columbus and lobby them on issues important to your dental practices. We have lobbied against mid-level providers and insurance companies being able to set fees for non-covered services. We have lobbied for common sense opioid restrictions and to ensure that the dental needs of the entire state are being met. The successes of our lobbying efforts are tremendous, but the support from ODPAC is something that needs to continue year after year.

Strength in numbers is the way we continue to practice dentistry in a free and fair environment. We need your voice and your contributions. Please join us!



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3 GET QUOTE



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Looking for energetic General and Pediatric Dentists. Opportunity in Akron/Canton and Wooster areas. Busy, high tech, clean, friendly pediatric offices with EFDAs. Full or part time (>1 day/week) positions available. Generous compensation: \$100-\$140/hr guaranteed. Will provide guidance. All dentists have exceeded guaranteed salary at the one year mark. Malpractice provided. New graduates are welcomed. No evening or weekend hours. Email resume to [1pedsdds@gmail.com](mailto:1pedsdds@gmail.com).

Midwestern University, Downers Grove, seeks a full-time faculty member responsible for teaching in one-to-one, small group and plenary settings; demonstration and facilitation related to clinical situations; and the use of electronic media as needed. Candidates must possess a DDS/DMD degree and be eligible for licensure in Illinois. The successful candidate will possess an enthusiasm for dentistry; excellent clinical, communication and interpersonal skills; and the ability to embrace new technology. Previous teaching experience not required, but candidate must have a history of clinical experience. Also hiring for Clinical Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dentist. <http://midwestern.edu/faculty-and-staff/employment.xml>. Midwestern University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer that does not discriminate against an employee or applicant based upon race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or veterans status, in accord with 41 C.F.R. 60-1.4(a), 250.5(a), 300.5(a) and 741.5(a).

Our North Central Ohio pediatric dental practice is seeking a part-time pediatric dentist to join our busy, but caring team. We pride ourselves in providing state-of-the-art dental care for the pediatric population of 5 counties. Our most recent associate of 12 years retired to care for her young family due to COVID-related childcare issues. Compensation package includes a daily rate with production-based bonus. Please contact our office manager via email at [Traci@pedotoothdr.com](mailto:Traci@pedotoothdr.com).

com or call Traci at (419) 522-5437.

Pediatric Dentist. An excellent opportunity for a Pediatric Dentist. We are a big practice in a small town in south eastern Ohio. A very well-established practice. We have offer office sedation and hospital dentistry for our patients. We offer a generous compensation package as well as a great place to raise a family out of the City life. Please contact [Pediatricdentist02@gmail.com](mailto:Pediatricdentist02@gmail.com).




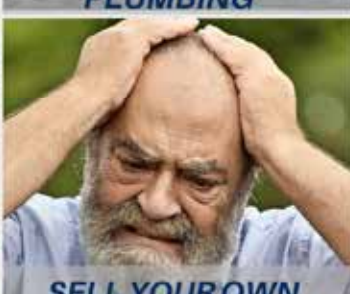
We are looking for a caring, driven and confident general dentist to join our Lorain practice full time. The practice has a long track record of success as a private practice and a loyal patient base of over 2200 active patients in place. Fully digital charting and x-ray system, family oriented community close to Cleveland. Enjoy the benefits of a strong operational team to help support the practice while you focus on the clinical care with complete autonomy. With a passionate, experienced staff in place, lead by an exceptional Office Manager, this is truly a plug and play situation with 2 FT Hyg supporting the practice as well. Full time Monday - Thursday schedule 38 hours per week. In addition to a strong compensation and benefits package, this position also includes paid for CE, professional dues, Malpractice and a sign on bonus. Contact Colleen Bixler at (717) 847-9069 or [cbixler@midwest-dental.com](mailto:cbixler@midwest-dental.com).

We are looking for a part-time dental associate in the Canton/Akron area at a well-established practice. Guaranteed starting salary plus quarterly bonuses. Candidate will need to work 2-3 days per week. Purchase opportunity available. Please contact [aliciabiddle@lordstowndental.com](mailto:aliciabiddle@lordstowndental.com) or 330-824-2515.

We are a rapidly growing company focused on telehealth emergency dental services. We provide visual examinations using videoconference technology and then prescribe medications as appropriate for the patient. Join us in expanding access to care for millions while working where and when you want to. We require no minimum hours worked weekly. Our provider success team is ready to walk you through the onboarding process today. Minimum 2 years of post-training, clinical experience required. Medicaid credentialing required. Apply here today: <http://teledentistry.tech/>

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### Purchase a Practice

Approximately 3,000 sq.ft. eight (8) operatory Ortho practice located North East of Columbus near the Akron/Canton Area. Well established for over 40 years. This is a GREAT opportunity to have the practice of your dreams now and not have to build. Fully equipped with Itero Scanner, Digital Ceph Planmeca equipment and technology. Has a 4 day per week schedule generating approximately \$1 Million in gross receipts. Great location if you are wanting a place to start your practice ownership career or expand your existing footprint in an affluent area. Don't pass up looking at this practice! Please contact: John Jonson, 937-657-0657, John.Jonson@henryschein.com #OH1958

Bright, inviting six operatory dental-ready office for sale by owner in prime location at 1151 Bethel Rd, Columbus, with easy access from Upper Arlington, Worthington, Dublin, Hilliard, Beechwood/Clintonville, within 1 mile of Rt 315. 2040 sq ft includes cathedral reception room, private doctor's office, private business office, staff room, centrally located lab and sterilization rooms, separate patient and staff bathrooms. All operatories plumbed for nitrous. I look forward to hearing from you! 614-563-0706.

Columbus, Ohio is one of the fastest growing cities in the country and this thriving oral surgery practice is in a prime location to take advantage of the new growth! With two locations in desirable areas, the real estate is also for sale if desired. The practice features nine fully equipped operatories with an expansion opportunity for two additional ops. Collections of \$3.14 million & EBITDA of \$525,000. 4,000 total active patients and 325 new patients per month! To learn more and review the prospectus for this practice, please contact Sam Schoenecker with Professional Transition Strategies via email: SAM@PROFESSIONALTRANSITION.COM. We look forward to speaking with you! <https://professionaltransition.com/properties-list/columbus-oh-oral-surgery-practice-for-sale/>

General practice with 7 ops in Cincinnati. Strong hygiene, upgraded technology and seller is flexible with post transition

involvement. The historical collections are approximately 1.6 million. Real estate to be sold with the practice. Contact Blake Ring at (317) 464-7857 or Blake@LegacyPracticeTransitions.com.

If you've been looking for an ideal practice in PA with immense growth potential-look no further! The current doctor is experiencing an incredible uptick of patients and is interested in bringing on an additional doctor to accommodate the growth of the practice. The position options include a partnership or associate to buy-in route. The real estate may also be included for an expansive, free-standing building with great parking. Located within an hour's drive of Pittsburgh and just over an hour to Cleveland, the area offers a lower cost of living while maintaining easy access to large cities. 6 operatories and collections of \$1.2 million. Adjusted EBITDA of \$375,000 and 5,000 active patients. Reach out to Kaile Vierstra at Professional Transition Strategies to receive a copy of the prospectus: kaile@professionaltransition.com or call: 719.694.8320. We look forward to hearing from you!

<https://professionaltransition.com/properties-list/western-pa-general-dental-practice-ownership-opportunity/>

Very well respected and a long established practice located in Clark County, Ohio and is only 45 min. from Columbus. Seven (7) treatment rooms, 3,000 sq. ft., all digital and paperless. Over 2,500 active patients. Refers out Endo, Ortho and all Surgery. 3.5 day work week with 7 days per week of Hygiene. Dr. will sell or lease office real estate. Doctor is willing to stay on for as long as needed, these amazing, long-tenured staff members are all willing to stay on. Practice generates approx \$650K in gross receipts. Please contact: John Jonson, 937-657-0657, John.Jonson@henryschein.com, #OH171.

We have practices available throughout the state of Ohio. If you're looking for a practice in Ohio go to [www.omni-pg.com](http://www.omni-pg.com) to view our listings and get more details.

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monitors. All at very reasonable prices. Photos available. Please contact us at: m.themare@gmail.com, (513) 403-4010; fdca1.jmf@gmail.com, (513) 505-9987. We look forward to speaking with you.

Orthodontic/Dental Space - Mentor, Ohio. For lease: approx. 2500 sq. ft. orthodontic/dental office. Great location 22,975 cars daily, near Meijer, Chipotle, Applebees, Staples, PetSmart. Features 6 ops, lab, private dr. office, customer and employee bath. Call TR Hach (owner/agent) for details (440) 479-1607.

Premier 3000 square ft space in medical campus in Mentor, Ohio for dental practice. Previous dental practice relocated. Cabinetry, plumbing, electrical included. Incentives available. Please contact build@graperandwarmington.com or call Mike Warmington, (440) 354-6509.

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Join an established practice or buy 100 percent and make it your very own. Here's some of what you can find with ADA Practice Transitions: [ADAPracticeTransitions.com/practice-profiles](http://ADAPracticeTransitions.com/practice-profiles)

**Place an ad to hire a staff position on our Job Board at [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org)!**

## Watch the ODA's new COVID-19 CE course

By ODA Staff

The Ohio Dental Association recently released a new COVID-19 online CE course for members.

The course, "COVID-19 Update: From Vaccines to Aerosols," is presented by Dr. Tom Paumier, an ODA past president. Paumier is a general dentist in Canton and served on the ADA's Advisory Task Force on Dental Practice Recovery created in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The CE course provides timely COVID updates from a clinical perspective. Topics covered include:

- Aerosols in the dental office. Do you need air/HEPA filtration or extra oral suction?
- Pre-procedural mouth rinses ... do they help?
- Oral health and COVID-19 ... is there a connection?
- Update on changes to ADA/CDC Guidelines.
- PPE ... has anything changed and does it work?
- Testing ... molecular for virus or antigen to virus and serological for antibody testing. What do you need to know?
- Vaccines ... Can they be developed fast and be safe and effective?
- Evidence Based Medicine during a pandemic ... is it possible?

The course is available on demand at the ODA's website, [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org). ODA members who watch the course and pass a short quiz will receive 2 hours of CE credits. This course is available free to members as a benefit of membership.

To access the new course, visit [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org).

**ODA Today  
Jobs & Ads Board**

Text ads appear in each issue of *ODA Today*. The cost is \$55 for members (\$88 for non-members) for the first 40 words. Each additional word is \$1. Ads may be submitted via mail or fax to the attention of Amy Szmania, advertising manager, or by email to [amy@oda.org](mailto:amy@oda.org). The deadline to place, cancel or modify text ads is the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication.

ODA text ads can also be found online at [www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org).

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