



State of Vermont Agency of Human Services Department of Health

Updates from the Health Department's Office of Oral Health
06/09/2026

At the Health Department, we're committed to health equity. Our vision is a Vermont where everyone has the chance to enjoy good health—and that includes good oral health. The Office of Oral Health (OOH) helps make this vision a reality by supporting community water fluoridation, school dental programs, and oral health surveillance. We're also working to improve access to care, grow and support the dental workforce, connect medical and dental care, and strengthen systems that support oral health across the state. Here are some updates from the Office of Oral Health:

- **Earn Free CE Credits with a Quick 802Quits Refresher:** The 802Quits brief-intervention courses are a quick, practical way to strengthen your tobacco- and nicotine-cessation conversations in dental settings. These free courses reinforce the evidence-based Ask, Advise, Refer model and help you stay confident discussing tobacco use, vaping risks, and cessation benefits with patients. You can receive CE credit again, even if you've taken an 802Quits course in a previous licensing period. Access the two dental-specific courses — *Special Topics for Tobacco Cessation* and *Implementing a Brief Intervention for Tobacco in Clinical Settings* — at <https://quitlogixeducation.org/vermont/> under CDE Courses.
- **State and national fluoridation updates:** I recently had the opportunity to attend the Vermont Rural Water Association's spring conference where I tabled with information about fluoridation and promoted the CDC's [Fluoridation Learning Online](#) course with water operators. I also attended the Green Mountain Water Environment Association's spring conference where I presented a CE course titled "Community Water Fluoridation: Public Health Information for VT Water Operators". These were great opportunities to get to put "faces to names" of water operators we work with, and to provide them with information about why fluoridation is so important to public health. Two national updates bode well for fluoridation. The first is the publication of a [robust study](#) showing no association between fluoridation levels in the US and IQ. The second is that a federal appellate court [vacated a landmark ruling](#) that ordered EPA to address the health risks of fluoride in drinking water, stating that judge Edward Chen erred in ruling that adding fluoride to water poses an "unreasonable risk" to children's brain development.
- **Vermont Pediatric Dental Practice featured in National Peer Reviewed Publication:** Dr. Jonny Norris, co founder of Montshire Pediatric Dentistry, was an author on [Implementing a disease management standard operating procedure in a contemporary private pediatric dental practice](#). Disease management techniques, such as silver diamine fluoride (SDF) and sealants, have emerged as alternatives to traditional restorative care. This study describes the implementation of a disease management protocol in a large, multi-site private pediatric dental practice. The study concluded that based on the patient volumes in this study, minimally invasive disease management techniques are generally an acceptable treatment philosophy for treating dental caries in a private practice setting. Dr. Norris was also an author on this study: [Serving Rural Communities, Coping with Medicaid Cuts, and Having a Successful Practice: Case Studies from Oregon and Northern New England](#)

Health equity can only be achieved when public health, private practice, and our communities work together. Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing oral health for all Vermonters.

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