

# 2020 - Policy Progress on Dental Access

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Allegany and Washington Counties

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### The Legislative Session and Beyond





# Happy Bastille Day!

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**“Croquer la vie à pleines dents “**

Translation: Live life to the fullest with  
your mouth full and all of your teeth into  
life



# Medicaid to Extend Dental Coverage to Postpartum Women

- Starts January 1, 2021. 60 days post partum coverage for dental.
- The history:
  - Discussions with Governor Hogan's office began in Summer 2019.
  - Governor included \$1 million in supplemental budget in March 2020. The funds are split between federal and general equally. Coverage was to start July 1, 2020.
  - With the economic downturn, many new funding initiatives were put on pause.
  - Governor preserved postpartum funding in budget cuts approved by the Board of Public Works in July 2020. Launch of the program will be moved from July 1 to January 1.



# Advocacy Changes Pace with Economic Constraints

- Revenue forecasts are uncertain, but the State is currently projecting a structural deficit of about \$1.5 billion.
  - The Governor addressed over \$400 million of the deficit with funding cuts in July.
  - In the future:
    - Use Rainy Day funds
    - Transfer from special accounts to State funds
    - Further cuts: State employees? Other program cuts?
- Advocacy in this Economic Climate
  - Excel with the program funding we do have.
  - New initiatives may have to happen further down the road.
  - Lay the groundwork. At every step, promote dental as part of an integrated health solution.

# Dental Advocacy on the Horizon

- Federal relief funding for dentists
- Medicaid rates & PPE
- Health equity
- Teledentistry reimbursement

# The Work Ahead

- Preserve progress on dental coverage AND lay the ground work for future initiatives
  - Strengthen and build relationships with legislators.
  - Integrate dental into all health advocacy and policies
  - Continue to grow network of supportive stakeholders