

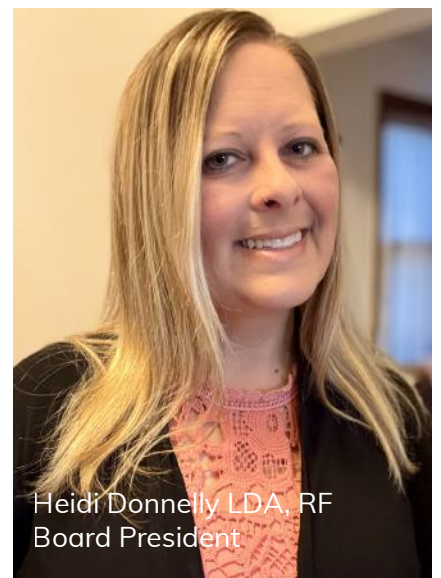
FALL 2025

Newsletter

President's Message

During my eight years on the Board of Dentistry, I have learned an extraordinary amount and have had the privilege of meeting many wonderful colleagues. I have been fortunate to serve on numerous committees, including the Policy Committee, Sedation Committee, Practitioner Review Committee, Allied Committee, and Jurisprudence Committee. Serving as President this past year, and as Vice President for the two years prior, has provided invaluable experience and insight. I am grateful for the friendships I have formed and for the opportunity to learn from some of the best in our field. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Bridgett Anderson for her guidance and support, and to the dedicated staff at the Board of Dentistry. Over the past eight years, they have consistently offered their assistance and expertise—their hard work has not gone unnoticed.

I also want to thank all the board members I have had the pleasure of working with. Dr. Hassan Ismail and I began our service at the same time, and it has been an honor to collaborate with him and many others across various committees. I will truly miss working alongside each of you. Together, over these eight years, we have accomplished meaningful work. We have strengthened and clarified rules within the legislature, refined sedation criteria, and improved distinctions among pediatric, child, adult, and geriatric sedation classifications. These efforts have provided clearer guidance for providers and enhanced patient safety. Additionally, we successfully added local anesthesia administration as an expanded function for dental assistants—a significant advancement for our profession. It has been an honor to serve, and I am deeply appreciative of the experiences and relationships gained along the way.



Heidi Donnelly LDA, RF
Board President

Sincerely,
Heidi Donnelly

Thank You For Eight Years Of Service!

After eight years of service (two consecutive terms) Hassan Ismail, DDS, and Heidi Donnelly, LDA, will complete their terms in January 2026. Dr. Ismail served as Board President; Board Vice President; Policy Committee chair; DASLE Task Force chair; Practitioner Review Committee member; Sedation Committee member; School of Dentistry liaison; and ADEX representative.



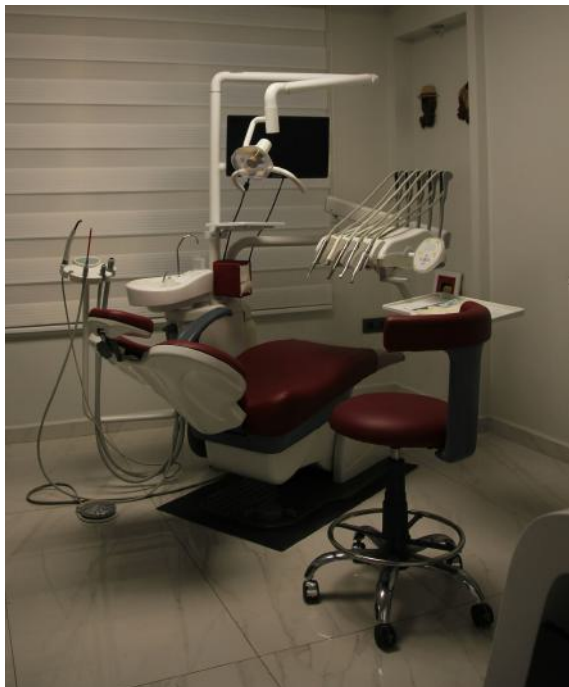
Heidi Donnelly served as a board president, a board vice president, Allied Dental Committee Chair, Professional Development and Jurisprudence Committee Chair; Policy Committee member; Sedation Committee member; Practitioner Review Committee member; DASLE Task Force member; and CODA Site Visit Representative.

The Minnesota Board of Dentistry and State of Minnesota sincerely thanks them for all the years of dedicated service. Their expertise and talents have helped build a better board.

Interested in Serving on the Board?

Contact Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director at bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us for more information.

Applications need to be submitted through the Minnesota Secretary of State website here:
<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/boards-commissions/>



Professional Firms

If you have incorporated or organized a firm name with the MN Secretary of State and elected to file under MN Chapter 319B Professional Firms as one of your chapters, then you must register that firm with the board.

"Firm" includes a corporation, limited liability company, and limited liability partnership, wherever incorporated, organized, or registered.

To register a professional firm with the Board of Dentistry, the Board requires:

1. A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation as issued by the Minnesota Secretary of State
2. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation/organization as provided to and stamped by the Minnesota Secretary of State
3. A list of all shareholders and officers of the professional firm and their credentials
4. If you have a DBA submit the approval paperwork from the Secretary of State

You may scan these documents to amy.johnson@state.mn.us

Upon receipt of the above-mentioned documents, the Board will create a file for your firm and send a statement of fees due.

An initial filing fee of \$100 is due January 1 after the year of incorporation/organization. Each year thereafter there is a \$25 renewal fee.

No professional firm may furnish professional services within Minnesota until the firm files with each board having jurisdiction over the pertinent professional services.



Certificate Display

Licensees are only required to display renewal certificates and we will continue to issue the renewal certificate upon biennial renewals.

Licensees can now order duplicate certificates on our website. No need to mail in an order form and a check.

Certificates can be ordered [here](#).

State of Minnesota

Board of Dentistry

Has Issued

Sample Certificate

A DENTIST LICENSE NUMBER: Dxxxxx
(ACTIVE)

Effective Date
Sample _____

Expiration Date
Sample _____

Great American Smokeout

Quitting smoking can lead to immediate and long-term health benefits, such as a drop in heart rate and blood pressure within just 20 minutes.

Combining counseling with quit-smoking medicines can significantly increase your chances of success.

You don't have to stop tobacco use in one day – just start with one day at a time!

5 tips to help you succeed in your quit attempt.

- Prepare a quit plan and change your routine
- Replace cravings with gum or health snacks and/or go for a walk or exercise
- Get support and encouragement from family and friends
- Talk with your health care provider about quit tobacco medication choices.
- Be prepared for relapse and difficult situations



Resources:

Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/tobacco-features/the-great-american-smokeout.html>

Quit Partner Minnesota: <https://www.quitpartnermn.com>

American Heart Association: <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking-tobacco>

Quitline: 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)

[My Life My Quit](#) is specifically designed for teens ages 13-17 quit vaping and smoking.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Project Firstline (PFL)

Cough Micro-Learn: What to Do When You See a Patient with Cough and Congestion

Join MDH Project Firstline’s brief train-the-trainer session designed for those with infection control expertise or those who may lead infection prevention and control education. Participants will learn how to utilize micro-learn resources in team huddles, guide practical discussions, and to help staff take steps to stop the spread of germs.

Train to lead. Use the tools. Make an impact.

Same training offered both days — register for the one that fits your schedule.

·Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025 | 2 - 2:30 p.m. CST

[Project Firstline Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn \(12/9\)](#)

·Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 | 10 - 10:30 a.m. CST

[Project Firstline Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn \(12/11\)](#)

View Now: MDH Project Firstline Cough Education Bundle Train your health care team on what to do when they see a patient/resident/client with cough and congestion by using our newest educational resource:

[MDH Project Firstline Cough Education Bundle \(PDF\)](#)



The poster is titled "Minnesota Department of Health Project Firstline Cough Education Bundle". It provides information about the bundle's purpose and lists available resources. The text states: "Coughing by itself can be caused by a lot of things, but a cough in combination with congestion—a stuffy nose, runny nose, watery eyes, and/or a nasal voice—is commonly caused by viruses. Viruses like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) or influenza can spread easily when an infected person talks, breathes, coughs, or otherwise blows air out of their nose or mouth. One person releasing these germs into the air can infect multiple people quickly."

Resources available:

- Recorded trainings
- Interactive & multimedia resources
- English & Spanish language resources

MDH Recorded Trainings

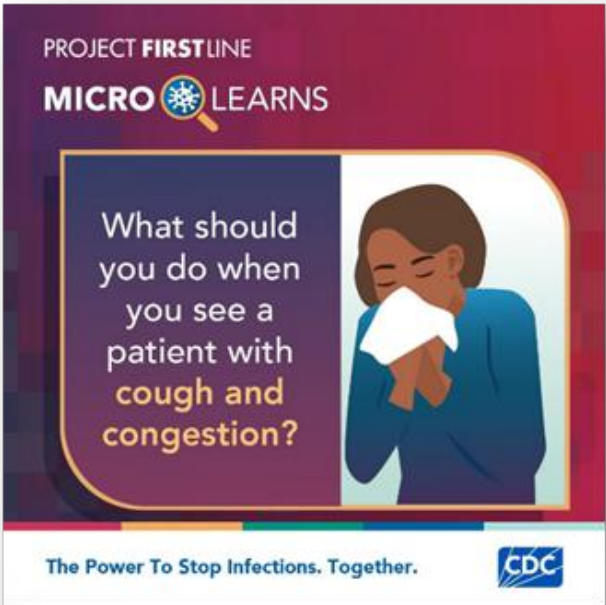
- 20 Infection Prevention and Control Actions to Stop the Spread of Viral Respiratory Infections Recorded Training
- 20 Source Control Recorded Training
- 45 PPE Part 4: Masks, Respirators, and User Seal Check Recorded Training

CDC Micro-Learn and Multimedia Resources

- Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn (PDF)
- 15 Did You Know? Germs Live in the Respiratory System (YouTube)

Print Materials

- Germs Live in the Respiratory System (PDF)
- CDC: Ventilation in Healthcare Settings (PDF)
- CDC: Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses (PDF)



The graphic is titled "PROJECT FIRSTLINE MICRO LEARNS". It features a woman coughing into her elbow. The text asks: "What should you do when you see a patient with cough and congestion?". At the bottom, it says "The Power To Stop Infections. Together." and includes the CDC logo.

Website: [MDH Project Firstline \(health.mn.gov/projectfirstline\)](https://health.mn.gov/projectfirstline)

PFL mailing list: [Subscribe to MDH Project Firstline Updates](#)

Email: Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us

Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

TMJ Awareness Month



November's TMJ Awareness Month puts a spotlight on a condition many patients struggle to understand and often misunderstand.

Providing patients with comprehensive information about TMJ disorder treatment is essential for shared decision-making, setting appropriate expectations, and achieving long-term symptom relief and improved quality of life.

Botox can help with muscle soreness but is not a cure for TMJ; it should be used as an adjunct, not a primary treatment. Botox can help with muscle soreness, but it doesn't fix the source. While patients may feel temporary relief, the effects diminish over time turning a temporary Band-Aid into a recurring dependency rather than a long-term solution.

Lack of sleep and stress contribute to clenching and bruxism; mouth taping lacks strong clinical evidence for resolving clenching or pain. TMJ and the bite are connected systems. Bite issues, missing teeth, and uneven chewing dynamics can influence TMJ health, requiring careful evaluation of the bite-joint relationship. Sometimes the joint problem causes the bite problems and sometimes it is the other way around.

Early signs like clicking, popping, or pain should prompt evaluation to prevent progression and long-term damage. The earlier it's evaluated, the better the outcome. TMJ is one of those conditions that can quietly progress if ignored. Minimally invasive treatments such as intra-oral splints, joint flushing, trigger point and PRP injections, or arthroscopy offer low-downtime options for suitable patients.



TMJ assessment and treatment: Expert



The Minnesota Office of Rural Health (ORH) partners with the state to celebrate National Rural Health Day! This day honors rural healthcare professionals and highlights the unique challenges and solutions in rural healthcare through initiatives like the Minnesota Rural Health Awards, which are announced on this day. You can find information and resources on the Minnesota Department of Health website and use the hashtag #PowerofRural to join the celebration online.

About Rural Health Day

- **What it is:** An annual national observance to honor rural healthcare providers, hospitals, clinics, and communities for their dedication and resilience.
- **Theme:** To bring attention to the unique challenges and celebrate the innovative solutions that exist in rural healthcare.
- **How to celebrate:**
 - Recognize rural healthcare professionals, organizations, and communities.
 - Share stories and information on social media using the hashtag #PowerofRural.
 - Use resources and materials from the [Minnesota Department of Health's outreach materials.](#)

Minnesota Office of Rural Health's Involvement

- **Partnership:** [The Minnesota Department of Health's](#) Office of Rural Health and Primary Care works with national and state partners to promote the day.
- **Minnesota Rural Health Awards:** The state's Rural Health Awards are announced on National Rural Health Day.
 - The 2025 awardees will be announced on November 20, 2025, and honored in person at the 2026 MN Rural Health Conference.

Resources: The office provides resources to help communities celebrate and recognize their local healthcare heroes.

Rural Health Information Hub

[Oral Health in Rural Communities Overview - Rural Health Information Hub](#)

- MN Office of Rural Health

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/index.html>

- Promotional Tool Kit <https://socialpresskit.com/powerofrural>

- Rural Health Transformation Program

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/ruraltrans.html>



#PowerofRural



Human trafficking is second only to drugs as the world's largest criminal activity. Did you know that dental professionals are some of the few health professionals who may be allowed contact with victims? [Recognize the signs of trafficking](#). With this knowledge, dental clinics can offer resources and assistance to victims.

For services in Minnesota: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/find-local-services>.

Dental professionals, not only can you help victims, but you also have the forensic skills and services that involves possible collection of evidence. Become aware of the signs and be ready to offer assistance.

No cost Webinar opportunity
<https://www.dentalceacademy.com/human-trafficking-red-flags>.

Human Trafficking Hotline:
888-373-7888
Text INFO to 233733 (BEFREE)
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

"More than 27 million people around the world endure the abhorrent abuse of human trafficking and forced labor, including thousands of people right here in the United States. It is a threat to global security, public safety, and human dignity." White House 2023

Contact Information for Licensees

The Board of Dentistry needs to have the most updated information for every licensee in the State. This is important information to make sure you have updated, this includes: current address, current practice address, current email, and current phone number. There are a multitude of reasons why the Board of Dentistry may need to get in contact with you, so having this information is imperative. Not only should licensees keep this information updated, but it is the law! Please see:

150A.09 LICENSES OR REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES.

Subd. 3. Current address, change of address. Every licensee or registrant shall maintain with the board a correct and current mailing address and electronic mail address. For dentists engaged in the practice of dentistry, the postal address shall be that of the location of the primary dental practice. Within 30 days after changing postal or electronic mail addresses, every licensee or registrant shall provide the board notice.

Without this information being updated, the Board of Dentistry is unable to send important documents or get in contact with you for time sensitive information. You can update your information on our website [here](#).



The Board of Dentistry will be closed November 27-28 for holiday observance.

[Click here to view disciplinary actions](#)



Contact



<https://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/>



dental.board@state.mn.us



www.linkedin.com/company/minnesota-board-of-dentistry



www.facebook.com/MNBoardofDentistrytur



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