

Dental Assistant Appreciation Week March 5th – 11th 2023



Left to right: Julie, Eva, Katie, Angelina, Kreighton, and Janae

The theme of dental assistant appreciation week is “The ♥ of Dental Offices Through Education, Commitment, & Safety”. Dental assistants play a crucial role in the success of our dental clinic and the treatment of our patients. We have five dental assistants currently: Eva Leoso (CDA – certified dental assistant), Katie Hudak (CDA – certified dental assistant), Angelina Godinez, Kreighton Wolf, and Janae Whitebird.

Four of our five current dental assistants are Bad River tribal members, and the other is from the Navajo nation. If you would like to join our team, please apply! Public posting period for dental assistant is March 9th, 2023 – March 23rd, 2023 or open until filled if not filled at closing period.

Dental offices are not typically people’s favorite place to be. Sometimes appointments can be stressful, especially when patients come in for emergency appointments in pain. Please remember to be kind to our dental assistants as they triage you and treat them with respect. Our assistants try to keep patients calm and we strive to create a relaxing environment. **Chi-miigwech to our dental assistants for all their hard work!**

Staff Highlight: Julie Hakamaki

Julie transitioned from dental assistant to front desk staff on March 6th, 2023. Julie worked as a dental assistant for 10 years, with 5 of those at the Bad River dental clinic. Thank you Julie for your time and dedication to the community.

Family: Husband Dale, children Jared, Jill & Erik and granddaughter Liliana

Hobbies: Reading, baseball, and floating

Hometown: Ashland, WI

Favorite thing about working in Bad River: It’s like coming back to my past. I grew up and went to school in Ashland and recognize a lot of people in the community.

Hopes for the dental clinic in the next year: To be fully staffed and the expansion going forward.

Professional interests: Finding ways to improve the community’s experience at the Bad River HWC.

Staff Highlight: Amanda Lee

Amanda joined our dental team on March 13th, 2023. She is a friendly face that sits at the front desk that manages our schedule and helps patients navigate paperwork.

Family: boyfriend and dog

Hobbies: Beading and hanging out with friends.

Hometown: Bad River.

Favorite thing about working in Bad River: Being more involved with my rez.

Hopes for the dental clinic in the next year: Unknown.

Professional interests: Unknown.

Pregnancy & Dental Care

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that pregnant women undergo dental care. **Prevention is important for pregnant patients.** Dental x-rays are safe if shielding of the abdomen and thyroid is performed. Risk to the fetus is negligible with proper shielding.



During the first trimester fatigue is common. There is a risk of fainting or getting lightheaded if getting up too quickly during this time. Many people also experience nausea and gag reflex can increase which can be challenging to manage if having dental work done. Fetuses are developing organs during the first trimester, so we tend to limit types of medications administered. *The second trimester is the most ideal time to have dental work done while pregnant.* In the third trimester babies grow significantly and having a pregnant person lay back can put a lot of pressure on the lower back and can be very uncomfortable. Many dentists prefer working on pregnant patients in the second trimester to keep the pregnant patient as comfortable as possible. During the second and third trimester the provider may limit how far back the pregnant person lies

and encourage them to roll slightly to left to alleviate pressure on the lower back. **Emergency dental needs should still be addressed while pregnant regardless of how far along in the pregnancy.** We no longer use novocaine in dental offices, we have lidocaine which is safe numbing to be used on pregnant people.

Pregnant people are at higher risk for developing gingivitis due to changes in hormones and are at a higher risk for cavities due to changes in eating habits. Dental cleanings and non-elective care should still be performed.

The American Dental Association states that preventive, diagnostic, and restorative treatment is safe throughout pregnancy. The Food and Drug Administration affirms that dental radiographs are safe during pregnancy. High doses of radiation can be harmful to a developing fetus, but dental x-rays use a very low dose of radiation. Each individual can decide whether or not to have dental x-rays while pregnant, however, infections cannot be properly diagnosed without proper imaging. Delaying non-elective dental care can make dental infections more complex and cause a significant amount of stress on the body.

Normal business hours at 8:00 – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Closed for tribal holidays

Upcoming closure dates:
4/7/2023, 4/10/2023

Direct dental phone number:
(715)685-7887

Services we offer:



Call us with any questions or to schedule your appointment today!

- Comprehensive and periodic exams to monitor your oral health with radiographs
- Prophylaxis: regular dental cleanings
- Sealants: protective covering in deep pits/grooves of teeth to help prevent cavities
- SRP: scaling and root planning, aka “deep cleanings” for patients with periodontal disease
- Fillings: removal and replacement of cavities, replacement of missing tooth structure
- Root canals: removal of nerve within the tooth with a filling put inside tooth
- Extractions: pulling teeth
- Biopsies: testing of suspicious tissue
- Invisalign: removable trays to align teeth
- Other miscellaneous surgeries
- Crowns: full coverage restoration of teeth, aka “caps”
- Implant crowns: caps over screws that are placed in the jaw
We are not placing implants
- Brides/fixed partial dentures: full coverage restorations that stay in your mouth with pontics or “hanging teeth” to fill in a space or two
- Removable partial dentures: prosthesis that is removed nightly to replace teeth
- Complete dentures: full set of fake teeth that you remove nightly

As an IHS clinic we offer our direct services at no charge to tribal members from any reservation regardless of insurance status.

Direct services include things that we do directly at our clinic: exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, and pulling teeth.

Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Crown



Bridge/fixed partial denture



Removable partial denture



Complete dentures



Example of dental emergency with lower right side of the face swelling from infected tooth.

Bad River Dental has an emergency walk in clinic. If you have emergency needs such as facial swelling or uncontrollable pain, we encourage you to come in from 12:30 – 3:00 Monday – Friday on days the tribe is open. Once here, you will be evaluated and seen based on severity.

If you have an urgent need such as a broken tooth without pain, please call us at (715)685-7887. If no answer, feel free to leave a voicemail.

Dental fun fact:
Tooth eruption is a range. Baby teeth are typically all in by age 3, but sometimes it is later or earlier!

Ojibwe dental word of the month:
Has tooth abscess = miniwaabide

Please email v.gokee@badriverhwc.com with any questions or topics you would like addressed in next month's issue! All submissions will remain anonymous.

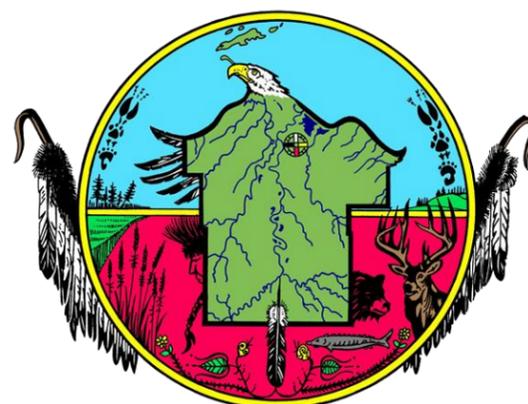
Miigwech for reading, please be on the lookout for our next monthly issue!

What is a dental emergency vs a dental urgency?

Emergency patient: someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

If you have trouble breathing, swallowing your own spit, or swelling below the jawbone please go to the ER.

Urgency patient: someone in need of swift dental intervention. Urgent needs include: front tooth chip, broken dentures, lost crown/temporary on teeth without root canals, or need for medical clearance for surgery.



Works Cited

“Are X-Rays Safe during Pregnancy?” *Kois Center*, <https://www.koiscenter.com/patient-education/miscellaneous/are-x-rays-safe-during-pregnancy/>.
“How Much Radiation Do I Get from a Dental x-Ray?” *Kois Center*, <https://www.koiscenter.com/patient-education/miscellaneous/how-much-radiation-do-i-get-from-a-dental-x-ray/>.
“Oral Health Care during Pregnancy and through the Lifespan.” *ACOG*, <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2013/08/oral-health-care-during-pregnancy-and-through-the-lifespan>.
“Pregnancy.” *American Dental Association*, <https://www.ada.org/resources/research/science-and-research-institute/oral-health-topics/pregnancy>.