

### Dental Hygiene Appreciation Week April 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2023



Hygienists are an integral part of the dental team.

**Chi-miigwech to our hygienists for all their hard work!**

#### Staff Highlight: DeAnn Carlson - Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)

**Family:** Husband - Chad, 4 daughters, Danielle (31), Ashley (30), Brittah (30) (no, they're not twins) and Victoria (19), (his, mine, ours and theirs (Brittah)), 3 granddaughters April-8, Ellie-5 and Grace-1 1/2 and a newborn grandson (Sutton) and 2 dogs-Liberty (Libby) and Denim. I am so blessed!

**Hobbies:** I like reading, mudding, being on or near the water, playing any kind of game (except Monopoly-I hate Monopoly), spending time with my family and Minnesota Vikings football! SKOL!

**How long you have been in your position:** I have been a hygienist for 30 years and with Bad River for 6 years in August.

**Professional interests:** I love to learn and enjoy attending continuing ed courses/conferences to keep up to date with what's happening in dentistry and hygiene. I learn something every day even though I've been doing this for so long! I'm also very interested in Mobile dentistry and would love to start an outreach program to serve those who don't have access to care (nursing homes, group homes, homebound, ie).

**Favorite thing about working in Bad River:** Being exposed to and learning about different customs and traditions. I know that sounds cliché, but I really like hearing the stories about why things are done and how they came to be. It helps me understand and/or appreciate it more.

**Hopes for the dental clinic in the next year** My hope for the dental clinic in the next year is to continue to grow and offer more services to the community. The planned expansion is very exciting and will allow that. I'd also like to get started with my outreach program.

**Any additional information you would like to share:** I was born and raised in MN and worked in the Twin Cities area for 20 years before moving to the UP. We've lived there 12 years and it has been amazing! Eventually we will move back to MN to be near the kids and grandkids, but that will likely be when I retire. After 30 years, I can honestly say I LOVE what I do!

#### Staff Highlight: Jerelyn Koosmann - Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

**Family:** Married-Husband John 22 years, Son-Brody 18, Daughter-Blair 16. Dogs, Silver Labrador-Blu 3, Mini Golden Doodle-Ginger 1  
**Hobbies:** Volunteer EMT, hiking, cross country skiing, walking my dogs, snowshoeing, traveling with friends and family, kayaking, and road biking.

**Hometown:** Edgar, WI

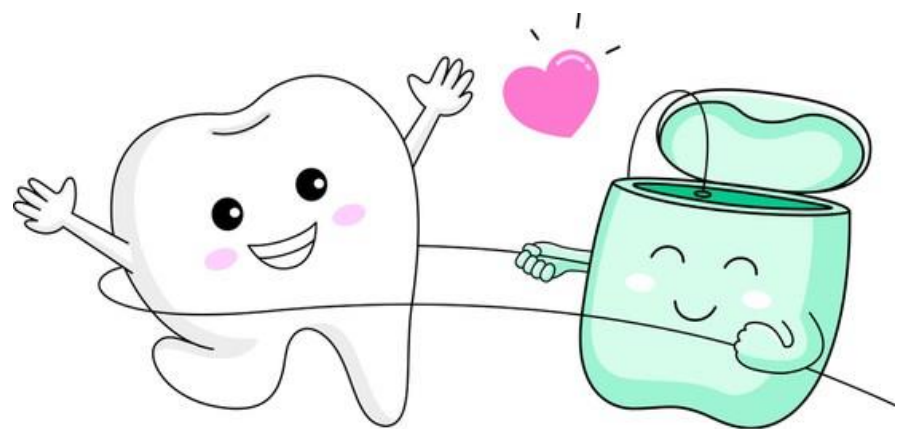
**How long you have been in your position:** July 2011

**Professional interests:** Networking, dental sleep medicine, orofacial myofunctional therapy, exploring new technologies in dental hygiene, Wisconsin Dental Hygienists Association (WI-DHA) member, former WI-DHA board and committee member.

**Favorite thing about working in Bad River:** Being able to provide dental hygiene services to the community that had limited access to these services before the clinic was completed in 2011, especially with school age children through the Smiles on Wheels outreach program.

**Hopes for the dental clinic in the next year:** I am excited for the start of the clinic expansion and to provide more dental related services to our patients. I also would like to collaborate with our clinic and dental team in screening patients for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) symptoms, risk factors, and oral findings.

**Any additional information you would like to share:** I enjoy teaching patients the correlation of oral health and how it is related to a person's overall general health. I especially encourage my diabetic patients to stay current with treatment recommendations and maintain oral health to ensure optimum overall health.



Oral Cancer  
Awareness Month  
April

## ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

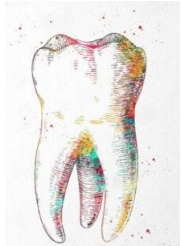
Oropharyngeal cancer often occurs in people aged 55 – 64. Every year there are 54,000 new cases in the United States. *1 person every hour, every day will die from oral cancer.* Every 6 months we perform oral cancer screenings at periodic exams. If we spot something suspicious, we take photos using a high-quality camera, follow up when necessary and are able to biopsy the area to have it evaluated by a lab. Risks for oral cancer: tobacco use, alcohol consumption (there is a **30X increased risk if using tobacco & alcohol**), age, and sun exposure (to the lips). Young and healthy people can also be diagnosed with oral cancer, most commonly due to the *human papillomavirus* also known as HPV. HPV is the cause of 70% of oropharyngeal cancers. The good news is that there is an HPV vaccine that can prevent more than 90% of HPV cancers! At the 2022 Health Fair we performed 97 oral cancer screenings and followed up with several people to establish care at our dental clinic or to have suspicious areas re-evaluated.

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

**Upcoming closure dates:**  
**05/29/23**

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.

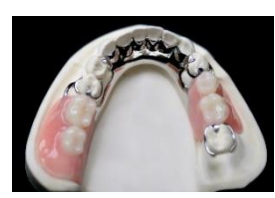
Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Crown



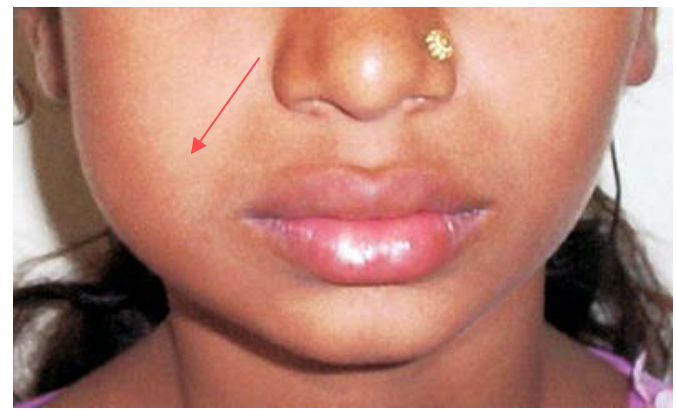
Bridge/fixed partial denture



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:**  
When teeth are developing, they create baby bumps called *mamelons* on their edges, but as you grow they go away sometimes!



**Ojibwe dental word of the month:**  
Has a toothache = *dewaabide*

## Dental emergency vs a dental urgency

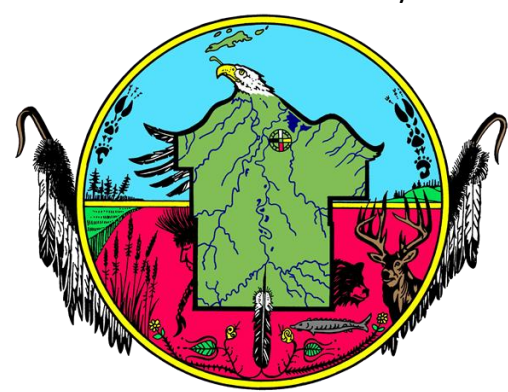
**Emergency patient:** someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

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. These appointments can be scheduled and do not need to walk-in.

Please email [v.gokee@badriverhwc.com](mailto: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!



Works Cited  
“Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Awareness Month.” *Oral Cancer Foundation Information and Resources about Oral Head and Neck Cancer*, <https://oralcancerfoundation.org/events/oral-head-neck-cancer-awareness-month/>.