

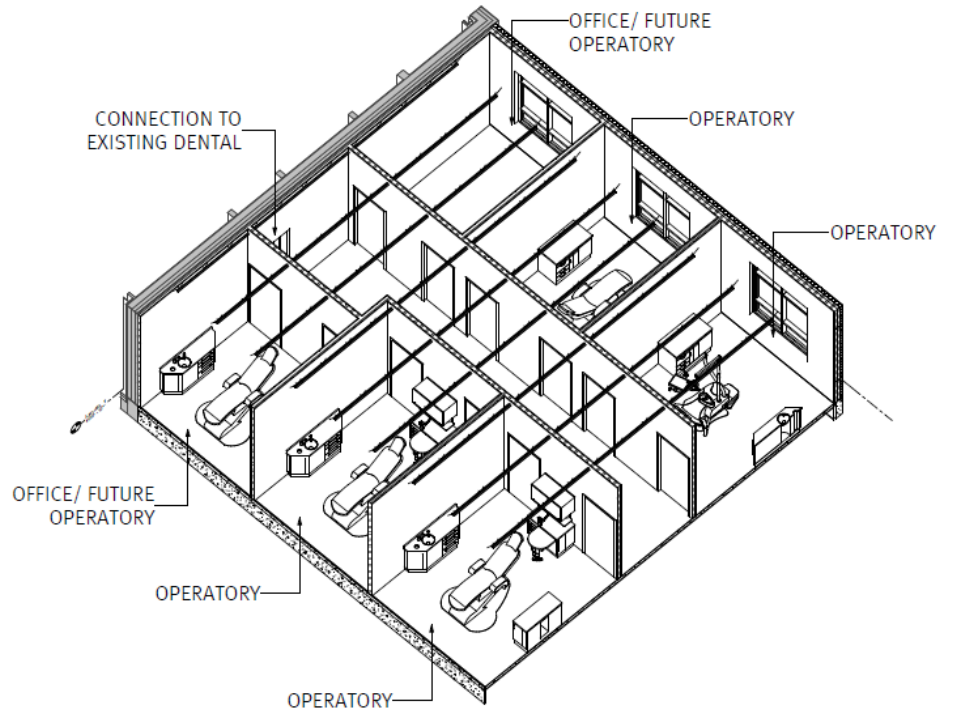
Clinic Expansion

The dental department is getting a makeover with the expansion that the clinic is undergoing! We will be expanding our sterilization and laboratory to increase our ability to keep up with the increase in patients that we will be seeing.

The portion that patients will be most familiar with will be the new operatories. The example on the right shows how the operatory expansion will connect to the existing southeastern wall.



There will be six rooms constructed, with three being fully outfitted to see patients. We received a grant from Delta Dental to purchase equipment for these rooms. The other three rooms will be offices for the time being and if we decide to expand again, they could be easily transformed into operatories to see patients since the plumbing/electric work will be prepared. Currently the foundation work is already underway. In the near future there may be some additional noise as the expansion work continues and will likely pick up in the spring and summer again.



We Are Not Accepting New Patients Currently

Due to the current backlog that Bad River Dental is facing with booking patients out several months we have decided we are unable to accept any more new patients. Our emergency walk-in clinic is always available for patients who are in pain. Please see the second page for additional info regarding our emergency clinic. If you are interested in establishing care or re-establishing care if you have not been seen for an exam in the last three years, please call our front desk and we will take your name and contact information to call you to schedule once we start seeing new patients again. Once we are able to catch up on the backlog of patients, we will start scheduling new patients again. We will honor the new patient exams that were scheduled prior to this decision, but if these appointments are missed rescheduling will not be possible until we re-open to new patients. We apologize for the inconvenience.



To best accommodate our current patients, we made this difficult decision. Thank you for your understanding.

What is "Meth Mouth"?



Methamphetamine, commonly referred to as meth, is a highly addictive drug that can have severe effects on overall health and oral health. Meth



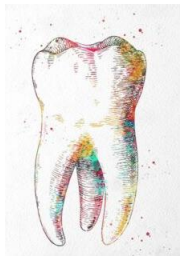
alters brain activity and can cause bruxism or grinding of the teeth. With chronic use, teeth are often neglected and routine oral hygiene does not always happen. The mouth can become dry due to the harsh chemicals. Eating/drinking habits are also often impacted since people usually crave sugary foods/drinks. The combination of the dryness, residual chemicals from drug, poor oral hygiene, and altered nutritional habits can result in the gums becoming severely irritated with eventual bone loss and cavities that are so extensive we are unable to save them. The longer and more meth that is utilized the more effect there is on the teeth and gums.

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

Upcoming closure dates:
1/15/24, 1/31/24 PM, 2/19/24

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
- Whitening trays: trays that fit over teeth to put whitening gel in
- 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
- Other miscellaneous surgeries



Crown



Bridge/fixed partial denture

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.

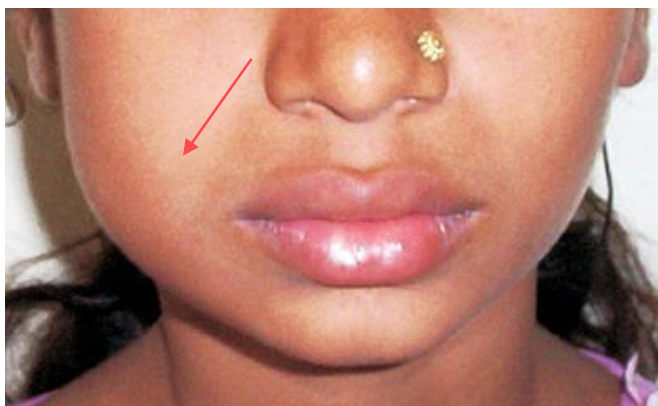
Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Removable partial denture



Complete dentures



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

Please bring a current medication list!

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 patients of record 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 we take teeth out we utilize an elevator to loosen the tooth.

Ojibwe dental word of the month:

incisor tooth (teeth) =
niigaaniwiibid(an)

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.

Dental emergency vs a dental urgency

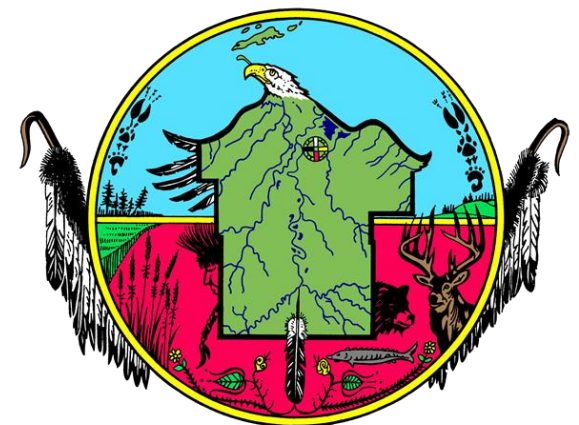
Emergency patient: someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

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 for patients of record. Feel free to walk in, but emergent needs will be seen first.

For patients who have not established care please walk in for these needs as well, just know there may be a wait since emergent needs will be seen first.

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



Works Cited

- “Meth Mouth.” *MouthHealthy*, www.mouthhealthy.org/all-topics-a-z/meth-mouth. Accessed 8 Jan. 2024.
- Pabst, Andreas, et al. “Meth Mouth—a growing epidemic in dentistry?” *Dentistry Journal*, vol. 5, no. 4, 2017, p. 29, <https://doi.org/10.3390/dj5040029>.
- Shetty, Vivek, et al. “Dental disease patterns in methamphetamine users.” *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, vol. 146, no. 12, 2015, pp. 875–885, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adaj.2015.09.012>.
- Stanciu, Cornel N., et al. “‘Meth mouth’: An Interdisciplinary Review of a dental and psychiatric condition.” *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, vol. 11, no. 4, 2017, pp. 250–255, <https://doi.org/10.1097/adm.0000000000000316>.