



Will County  
Health Department &  
Community Health Center

501 Ella Avenue | Joliet | IL | 60433

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2022

### NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH STRESSES BENEFITS OF SEALANTS

**JOLIET, IL** – The Will County Health Department (WCHD) and the Will County Community Health Center (CHC) is joining the American Dental Association (ADA) in the observance of National Children's Dental Health Month.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood, and it is largely preventable.

This year CHC and the ADA are emphasizing the positive role that sealants can play in a child's oral health.

According to Dr. Sangita Garg, Chief Dental Officer of the CHC, "sealants can keep cavities from forming and may even stop early stages of decay from becoming a full-blown cavity."

Sealants are protective coatings applied to the chewing surface of back teeth. While sealants have been, according to Dr. Garg, "shown to reduce the risk of decay by nearly 80% in molars," sealants are not a substitute for regular brushing and flossing.

The CDC states that "school-age children without sealants have almost three times more cavities than children with sealants."

Sealants are applied quickly and painlessly at one's dental office and are appropriate for children starting at age five, with the first appearance of permanent molars.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), sealants may last five years or longer and should be checked regularly and reapplied if necessary.

The CHC offers a variety of dental services including comprehensive dental exams, simple surgical extractions, regular and deep cleaning, digital and panoramic x-rays, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene education, emergency care and the application of sealants.

**MORE**

# NEWS release

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Will County Public Health dates back to 1942 when \$50,000 was allocated for local Environmental Health, Maternal-Child Health, and Infectious Disease Control initiatives. In 1940, roughly 115,000 people called Will County home; in 2020, nearly 700,000 do. Today Will County Health Department strives to bring its vision—to deliver sustainable programs and policies in response to the public health needs of the community—to all of the people of Will County.



815.727.8670



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The Dental Clinic can be reached at 815-774-7300; call to schedule an appointment.

The following are some basic tips from IDPH to promote good oral health:

### Babies

- Clean teeth with a soft, clean cloth or a baby's toothbrush.
- Avoid putting babies to bed with a bottle, and check teeth regularly for spots and stains.

### Toddlers to Teens

- Brush teeth with a fluoride toothpaste; floss between teeth.
- Eat healthy foods and limit sweet snacks and drinks. This includes power drinks.
- Schedule regular dental check-ups.



### The Will County Community Health Center Dental Services and Treatments Staff

**Sitting [left to right]:** Dr. Sangita Garg- Chief Dental Officer, Maria Alvarez- DA (dental assistant)

**Standing [left to right]:** Salley Thompson-DA, Pranvera Ajdini-DA, Dr. Dalvina Sharma-dentist, Dr. Olubanwo Abejide- dentist, Karina Rodriguez-DA, Diane Weber- dental secretary, Eulalia Villegas- Front Registration staff.

For more information, visit:

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/oral-health/fast-facts-oral-health.html>

<https://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/oral-health-recommendations>

<https://willcountyhealth.org/dental-services/>

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