



WATER QUALITY ADVISORY

Issued to Otter Lake Resort by the Medical Officer of Health, Manitoba Health and Seniors Care and the Office of Drinking Water, Manitoba Conservation and Climate

August 31, 2021

Recent testing shows manganese levels range from 1.53 to 1.76 (mg/L), which is above the Canadian Drinking Water guideline of 0.12 mg/L. Manganese is a naturally occurring element in groundwater. Small amounts of manganese are needed by the human body to be healthy. The primary health concern associated with increased manganese levels in drinking water may have health effects such as learning and behaviour problems in infants and young children. The guideline level is set to protect the highest risk group, infants fed with formula mixed with water. For adults and older children, short-term exposure to manganese in drinking water slightly above the guideline is unlikely to cause negative health effects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Water users should take steps to reduce their exposure to manganese in drinking water:
 - use an alternative water source such as commercially bottled water for drinking, preparing beverages, or making ice. Avoid using tap water for making soups or other similar liquid food.
 - **Do NOT use tap water for making infant formula.** Instead, use commercially bottled water.
- Infants, young children, pregnant and breast feeding women are higher risk groups.
- A fact sheet on Manganese in Manitoba Water Supplies is available for further information www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/manganese.pdf
- Water can be used for other domestic purposes, including hand washing and washing dishes. However, discoloured water may stain laundry or other items washed in the water.

Accidentally drinking small amounts of water is unlikely to pose an increased health risk. Manganese in solid food is much less of a risk than manganese in drinking water or other liquids. Tap water may be used for cooking or for washing fruits and vegetables. Avoid using discoloured water for cooking.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the water supply, please contact the Otter Lake Development Corporation at (204) 761-3813.

For health related questions, call Health Links / Info Santé at (204) 788-8200 (toll free at 1-888-315-9257) or your health care provider.