

July 4, 2025

BEACH CONDITIONS TO JULY 3

Algal blooms were sampled this week at Stephenfield Reservoir, Plum Coulee, and Sandy Lake on July 2. The number of blue-green algae cells was above Manitoba's recreational water quality objective at all beaches tested; however, the concentration of the algal toxin microcystin was below the recreational water quality objective. First level algae advisory signs were posted this week at Stephenfield Reservoir, Plum Coulee, and Sandy Lake beaches. First level algae advisory signs indicate that blue-green algal blooms have been found at these lakes this summer and provide advice regarding what to do if an algal bloom is observed.

Algal blooms are difficult to predict and may form and then disperse quickly or last for several days or weeks. Warm and calm weather coupled with relatively high nutrient loads provide ideal conditions for blue-green algae to develop. People are reminded to avoid swimming in water where severe algal blooms are visible and to prevent pets from drinking water along the shoreline where algal blooms are present. Home and cottage owners who use lake water as a source for drinking water should be aware that most small treatment systems are unable to remove algal toxins. Boiling or chlorination will not make the water safe for human consumption. Therefore, where blue-green algal blooms are present, avoid drinking the water or using it for other domestic purposes.

E. coli counts were above the recreational water quality objective at Delta (Lake Manitoba), St. Malo and Birds Hill Park East beaches. Resampling at these beaches will occur early next week.

The public is reminded to regularly check the Manitoba government's website for the latest beach results and follow precautions listed on advisory signs to reduce the risk of illness:

- Avoid swallowing lake water
- Wash your hands before handling food
- Avoid swimming with an open cut or wound, or if you are experiencing illness

- On Lake Winnipeg, minimize water contact if lake levels are high and strong winds are blowing from the north

Information on beach water quality results, advisory signs posted at beaches, swimmer's itch advisories, swimmer and water safety and how to report an algal bloom is available at:

manitoba.ca/beaches.