

August 26, 2022

BEACH CONDITIONS TO AUGUST 25

On August 23, a second level algae toxin advisory was issued for Ninette Beach on Pelican Lake. The concentration of the algal toxin microcystin was well above the recreational water quality objective of 20 µg/L. Swimming, drinking or other contact with the water at Ninette Beach is not recommended at this time. Sampling is ongoing and updates to the advisory will be posted at www.manitoba.ca/beaches.

Algal blooms were also sampled at Plum Coulee Beach and Patricia Beach on Lake Winnipeg. The number of blue-green algae cells was above Manitoba's recreational water quality objective at Plum Coulee Beach and Patricia Beach while the concentrations of the algal toxin microcystin were below the recreation objective. First level algae advisory signs were posted at both beaches. First level algae advisory signs indicate that blue-green algal blooms have been found at this beach this summer and provide advice regarding what to do if you see an algal bloom.

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. Therefore, where blue-green algal blooms are present, avoid drinking the water or using it for other domestic purposes.

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) counts remain above the recreational water quality objective at Plum Coulee Beach. Beach advisory signs remain posted.

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.