

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## **DRINKING WATER AVOIDANCE ADVISORY ELGIN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM**

Issued by the Medical Officer of Health, Manitoba Health and  
the Office of Drinking Water, Manitoba Conservation and Climate

**April 27, 2020**

An equipment failure has led to the loss of water pressure in the Elgin PWS distribution system. Distribution depressurization can compromise the safety of the water supply; however, **due to the presence of manganese in the water, tap water cannot be made safe by boiling.** A Drinking Water Avoidance Advisory has been issued to ensure public health protection.



**Tap Water must NOT be used for:**

- **drinking**
- **brushing teeth**
- **preparing food or beverages, including ice and infant formula**

**The water can still be used for hygienic purposes, flushing toilets and laundry.**

### **DURATION**

The Drinking Water Avoidance Advisory will remain in effect until the depressurization event has been resolved and bacteriological testing is completed.

**The Water Quality Information Notice regarding elevated manganese remains in effect until further notice.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Regional Drinking Water Officer at 204-724-0685, Public Health Inspector at 204-523-5285, or Health Links at 204-788-8200 (toll free at 1-888-315-9257).



# Manganese in Drinking Water Information for Water Users

Issued by the Medical Officer of Health for Prairie Mountain Health Region in collaboration with  
the Office of Drinking Water, Manitoba Sustainable Development

**October 17, 2019**

A new Canadian Drinking Water Guideline for manganese was established earlier this year because recent studies indicated that exposure to increased manganese in drinking water may lead to neurological effects in young children and infants, especially if the water is used to prepare infant formula. For adults and older children, short-term exposure to manganese in drinking water slightly above the guideline is unlikely to cause negative health effects. You are receiving this notice because your water system has identified manganese levels above the new guideline level of 0.12 mg/L. Testing done to date shows manganese levels in your water system range from 0.09 mg/L to 2.3 mg/L.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Use an alternative water source such as bottled water for making infant formula and infant food. All other water users are also advised to use an alternative water for making food and beverages to reduce their exposure to manganese in drinking water.

You can continue to use the water for other domestic purposes, including hand washing and washing dishes. However, the discoloured water may stain laundry or other items washed in the water.

The Office of Drinking Water is working with your water system to identify ways to reduce the manganese levels. Additional information will be provided once the treatment process has been selected.

For information on manganese in drinking water and the steps you can take to reduce manganese levels in your drinking water please see attached fact sheet on Manganese in Manitoba Water Supplies

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the water supply, please contact your water supplier.

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.