

September 6, 2024

BEACH CONDITIONS TO SEPTEMBER 5

Water quality testing this week has shown that levels of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) were within recreational water quality objectives at most beaches monitored by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change.

E. coli counts were briefly above the recreational water quality objective at Lake Winnipeg (Sandy Bar Beach) on September 3, but quickly returned to acceptable levels by September 5. Beach advisory signs have been posted at Sandy Bar Beach and will remain posted for the remainder of this beach season.

E. coli counts were above the recreational water quality objective at St Malo Beach, Birds Hill Park Lake (West Beach) and Lake Winnipeg (Lester, West Grand and Patricia beaches) on September 4. Beach advisory signs have been posted at St. Malo Beach, Birds Hill Park Lake (West Beach) and Lester Beach. Beach advisory signs remain posted at West Grand Beach and Patricia Beach.

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

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 can also be found at manitoba.ca/beaches.

Please note this is the final weekly beach conditions report for 2024.