

September 5, 2025

BEACH CONDITIONS TO SEPTEMBER 4

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 (Gull Harbour, Sandy Bar, Hnausa, Spruce Sands, Gimli, Sandy Hook and Winnipeg Beach) on September 2, but quickly returned to acceptable levels by September 4.

E. coli counts were above the recreational water quality objective at Lake Winnipeg (Milne Beach) on September 2 and 4. Beach advisory signs remain posted at Milne Beach.

Algal blooms were sampled this week at Lake Minnewasta, Killarney Lake and Lake Wahtopanah (Rivers Reservoir). The number of blue-green algae cells was above Manitoba's recreational water quality objective at Lake Wahtopanah (Rivers Reservoir) on September 3. First level algae advisory signs remain posted at Lake Minnewasta, Killarney Lake and Lake Wahtopanah (Rivers Reservoir). These signs indicate that blue-green algal blooms have been found in the water body this summer and provide advice regarding what to do if an algal bloom is observed.

The algal bloom sample results taken from Lake Minnewasta and Killarney Lake were within recreational water quality objectives this week.

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.

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.

Please note this is the final weekly beach conditions report for 2025.