

September 8, 2023

BEACH CONDITIONS TO SEPTEMBER 7

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.

E. coli counts were briefly above the recreational water quality objective at Lake Winnipeg (Gull Harbour, Gimli, Sandy Hook, Winnipeg, and Milne Beaches) on September 5th, but quickly returned to acceptable levels by September 7th. Beach advisory signs were posted at Gull Harbour Beach this week and remain posted at Gimli, Sandy Hook, Winnipeg, and Milne Beaches.

E. coli counts were above the recreational water quality objective on Lake Winnipeg at Patricia Beach on September 6th and at Hnaua Beach on September 5th and 7th. Beach advisory signs remain posted at Patricia and Hnaua Beaches.

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. 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. 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 2023.