



**Sustainable Development**  
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**Health, Seniors and Active Living**  
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June 26, 2019

RE: Information for water users on algal blooms

To whom it may concern,

Blue-green algal blooms can produce toxins that are harmful to people, pets and livestock. 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 during the summer months.

A poster and fact sheet have been developed to provide information for residents, cottagers and the public on algal blooms and precautions to take when blue-green algal blooms are observed. Please make this fact sheet available in your community and place the poster in relevant public locations, including any publically accessible facilities near water and near beaches. It is recommended that the information be made available throughout the algal bloom season, which is typically between June and late September.

Residents or cottagers using lake water to supply their homes should be advised that most small water systems cannot remove algal toxins. Notifying owners of these water systems is very important so that they can be prepared to take precautions. Please contact the Office of Drinking Water at 204-945-5762, if you have any drinking water questions or concerns. Information on drinking water safety, water treatment devices and other drinking water fact sheets is available at [manitoba.ca/drinkingwater](http://manitoba.ca/drinkingwater).

Manitoba Sustainable Development routinely monitors water quality at a number of beaches across Manitoba. For posters or fact sheets, or for information on recent algal bloom conditions, beach monitoring or to report a bloom, please go to [Manitoba.ca/beaches](http://Manitoba.ca/beaches).

For more information on the health effects of blue-green algal toxins, contact Health Links/Info Santé at 204-788-8200 (toll free at 1-888-315-9257).

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Kim Philip  
Director  
Office of Drinking Water  
Manitoba Sustainable Development

**Original signed by**

Nicole Armstrong  
Director  
Water Science and Watershed  
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**Original signed by**

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