

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## **BOIL WATER ADVISORY** **FOR THE BRERETON LAKE SOUTH SHORE** **SEMI-PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM**

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

May 12, 2023

On April 21, 2023, a sudden water quality change occurred at the Brereton South Shore water treatment plant. Samples taken on April 25, 2023, confirmed the presence of iron bacteria. Iron bacteria do not cause disease in humans or animals. However, they can create conditions where other bacteria may grow. A boil water advisory has been issued to ensure public health protection.

Iron bacteria occur naturally in soil, shallow groundwater and surface waters. Iron bacteria may cause taste and odour issues (swampy, cucumber); discoloured water (yellow, rainbow colored, oil-like sheen); and red slimy deposits or feathery like growths especially in standing water.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Until further notice, all water used for consumption should be brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute before it is used for:**

- Drinking and ice making
- Preparing food, including washing fruits and vegetables
- Preparing beverages, such as infant formula
- Brushing teeth

It is **not** necessary to boil tap water used for other household purposes, such as laundry or washing dishes. Adults and older children that are able to avoid swallowing the water can wash, bathe, or shower.

Young children should be sponge bathed. If boiling is not practical, an alternate and safe supply of water should be used for consumptive purposes; i.e. bottled water. [Boil Water Advisory Fact Sheet #1 - Boil Water Advisory For Manitoba Water System Users](#) contains additional information on water use and can be found on the website below. **To avoid burn injuries from hot water**, caution should be taken. Please keep young children away from boiling water. Place kettles and pots away from counter and stove edges.

Please share this information with other people who use the water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (ex: renters, tenants, staff, or clients). This notice can also be posted in common areas where people tend to gather.

### DURATION

The Boil Water Advisory will remain in effect until the water supplied by this water system no longer presents a risk to public health. You will be notified when the advisory has been rescinded. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact water system at 204-369-3153 or Health Links at 204-788-8200 (toll free at 1-888-315-9257).

To review Fact Sheets on water use, please go to [www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater) or <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/water.html>

## Iron Bacteria and Water Cisterns



Iron bacteria may be introduced to your cistern from this water. To remove iron bacteria, disinfecting your cistern is recommended. The procedure for disinfecting a cistern and other information can be obtained through this QR code or visit the website above. It is recommended that your cistern be disinfected once the boil water advisory is rescinded.