



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Cautions Residents About Lead in Drinking Water

Dauphin, MB – The City of Dauphin is working with the Province of Manitoba – Office of Drinking Water and Prairie Mountain Health to determine the extent to which lead may be leaching into drinking water from individual lead service lines, lead solder used in plumbing, or brass fixtures containing lead. In mid-2017 the Province requested that Manitoba municipalities voluntarily conduct tests within their water systems and submit the results. The City of Dauphin was one of the few municipalities to comply with this request, and the results of tests conducted on seventeen (17) properties indicate lead levels in some cases may be higher than the current Health Canada drinking water guideline because of one or more of the three factors.

It is important for the public to be aware that water leaving the City of Dauphin's Water Treatment Plant and travelling throughout the City's extensive network of watermains meets or exceeds all Federal and Provincial standards for drinking water, including lead, and has met them since the plant's commissioning in 1999. However, lead service lines were installed extensively throughout North America up until the 1950s, and lead solder was approved for use in the Manitoba Building Code until 1989.

"City Council wants to be proactive on this issue and be a leader in the Province, as we take the health of our residents very seriously," said Mayor Allen Dowhan. "We know the water we produce is safe, but if there are other factors that are causing lead levels to be at or above national standards, we think our residents should know so they can take the steps necessary to reduce the level and potential risk to their health."

The City has identified 445 properties (out of approximately 3,500 total properties) in Dauphin as having a lead service line, which is the line that services individual properties from the watermain under the street. These properties will be receiving an information package developed jointly by the City, Province, and Health Authority. This information package is also available to the general public on the City's website at www.dauphin.ca/publicworks/lead/. As lead solder was used in plumbing systems locally until approximately 1990, and brass fixtures containing lead may still be in use, properties without a lead service line may also have elevated lead levels in their drinking water.

"As a result of the recent findings, the City will conduct free water testing for those properties with lead service lines to determine lead levels in the drinking water," stated Director of Public Works & Operations, Bill Brenner. "If lead levels are found to be higher than national standards we recommend the property owner install an NSF-certified lead reducing water filter on drinking water faucets in the property."

If property owners without lead service lines wish to have their water tested for lead, the City has arranged to have such tests conducted by an accredited independent laboratory. Instructions on how to have the testing completed, along with lead reduction strategies, are provided on the City's website at www.dauphin.ca/publicworks/lead/.

In the interim, if you are concerned about lead levels in your drinking water you may want to use water from an alternate source that has been tested and approved for human consumption. To determine if your property is one of the 445 identified by the City as potentially having a lead service line, please refer to the [attached map](#).

The City plans to undertake additional testing over the coming weeks to determine the extent of this issue and is also investigating long-term solutions that will mitigate lead levels in the entire community.

If you have questions pertaining to Dauphin's water system or any general questions, please contact:

City of Dauphin
204-622-3212
water@dauphin.ca

If media have questions regarding the regulation of drinking water in Manitoba, please contact:

Communications Services Manitoba
204-945-3765