



City of Dayton
12260 South Diamond Lake Road
Dayton, MN 55327
cityofdaytonmn.com

March 16, 2022

TO: Dayton Residents
FROM: City Council and Staff

The City of Dayton has always been committed to providing clean and safe drinking water to our residents, and **we have always met all primary drinking water standards set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)**. We routinely monitor the quality of City water and work to make certain our water remains safe. Our annual consumer confidence report (CCR) provides water quality information and can be found on the front page of the City's web site (see the resources below for a link to the most recent CCR).

In August of 2021, MDH reached out to the City regarding a new safety advisory and sampling program for manganese in drinking water. Manganese occurs naturally in rocks and soil across Minnesota and is often found in Minnesota's ground and surface waters. Your body needs some manganese to stay healthy, but studies have shown that too much can be harmful. Based on these studies, MDH has set guidance values for manganese as follows:

- If you have an infant who drinks tap water or formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 100 micrograms of manganese per liter of water ($\mu\text{g/L}$) or less. One microgram per liter is the same as 1 part per billion.
- If you have an infant who never drinks tap water or formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ or less.
- If everyone in your household is more than one year old, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ or less.

While public water systems are not required to meet guidance values, the City has been taking several samples a week to monitor the manganese levels in our water sources since August 2021. This sampling has revealed that the average raw water concentration at the wells that serve you is 302 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

MDH has advised the City that, oftentimes, the level of manganese coming out of your faucet may be significantly less than the raw water from a City well, especially if you use a home filtration system (pitcher, refrigerator, whole home) or water softener. If you would like to learn more about the manganese level of the water from your faucet, or to schedule a home visit, please contact Kelsey Montgomery at kmontgomery@cityofdaytonmn.com or call 763-323-4017. A City employee can come to your home, sample your water, and provide you with results at no cost to you. A form is attached for basic information to schedule a home visit, please fill in and return via email to Kelsey at the address above, or post to City Hall, 12260 South Diamond Lake Road, Dayton MN 55327. A fillable form is available on the city website www.cityofdaytonmn.com Once staff receives the form, we will contact you to confirm the time

that you can expect a City technician to collect the water sample.

Currently, MDH is not requiring any changes to City water treatment or control measures, but the City is working with MDH and our water treatment consultants to develop both short and long-term plans to address manganese levels.

For the City to be able to lower the manganese level in its drinking water, it will require treatment processes that the City of Dayton does not currently have in place. City staff are exploring what it will take to construct additional treatment facilities to lower manganese. Dayton City Council approved preliminary designs for 2 well head water treatment facilities at its 3-8-2022 regular meeting. Possible sources of financing, including state and federal grants, are being investigated to cover some of the costs of additional treatment facilities. If the State declares manganese to be a primary contaminant that must be controlled, Public Facilities Authority grant money will most likely become available. If manganese remains a secondary, uncontrolled contaminant, grant money will be harder to obtain. In the meantime, there are solutions that you can implement at home to reduce the manganese in your tap water that include:

- Using purified bottled water for drinking, especially if you have an infant or young children;
- Installing a home water softener. If you already own a water softener, make certain that your water softener is, and remains, in good working order;
- Filtering your drinking water with a water filter pitcher or a filtering unit attached to a faucet, provided the filter is designed to remove manganese.
- Working with specialized firms to install a home filtration system to remove manganese.

We understand that these short-term solutions are not ideal. Several Minnesota cities are facing this issue along with Dayton. We will continue to explore long-term solutions that can remove manganese from our water long before it reaches your faucet.

For additional information on manganese, water in the City of Dayton, and your Mayor and City Council please follow the links in the Resources section below. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to MDH, your City Council, or our Director of Public Works, Martin Farrell at mfarrell@cityofdaytonmn.com

Resources

City of Dayton Consumer Confidence Report

<https://cityofdaytonmn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2020-CCR-REPORT.pdf>

MDH Information on Manganese:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/manganese.html>

City of Dayton Water Resources:

<https://cityofdaytonmn.com/departments/public-works/water-sewer/>

City of Dayton Mayor and Council

<https://cityofdaytonmn.com/government/mayor-council/>