



*In The  
Heart of  
Redwood  
County*

*City of Wabasso*

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October 27, 2022

RE: Manganese Levels in Water Supply

To: Wabasso City Water Customers

From: City of Wabasso Public Utilities

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently advised us that our water system has levels of manganese in the drinking water supply that are greater than MDH recommended health guidance values.

Although the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act does not regulate manganese, these guidelines identify a safe level of manganese in drinking water:

1. Of no more than 100 parts per billion (ppb), if you have an Infant younger than one year and your infant drinks tap water or formula is made from tap water.
2. No more than 300 ppb for all persons more than one year old.

The average manganese levels in Wabasso municipal water is 319 parts per billion. Manganese in the water supply is not new. It occurs naturally in rocks and soil and is usually present in Minnesota's ground and surface waters. In other words – this is not a recent change in water quality, but it is just now being recognized as a potential health concern. People need some manganese to stay healthy, but too much can be harmful to the nervous system. Infants may develop learning and behavior problems if they drink water or formula made with water with too much manganese. In addition, children and adults who drink water with high levels of manganese may have problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. Upon learning about the manganese exceedance level, the city is taking steps to notify all of its customers and taking remedial steps to reduce the levels of manganese.

Some short-term actions residents can take include:

1. As most softeners can be effective at removing manganese, if you have a water softener, use softened water for drinking; make sure your water softener is in good working order.
2. Use purified bottled water for drinking, especially if you have an infant or young child.
3. Filter your drinking water with a water filter pitcher or a filtering unit attached to a faucet designed to remove manganese.
4. Contact a reputable water treatment company to install a home treatment system if you do not already have one.

More information about manganese is also available on the MDH website at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/manganese.html>.