



March 1, 2021

Dear Montrose Residents,

As a City of Montrose Resident, you are receiving this letter as a notice regarding the city's municipal drinking water supply which serves approximately 3250 residents or 1,249 households and local businesses. Residents who operate their own private well for drinking water may also be affected.

The City of Montrose and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) routinely conduct water analysis testing to monitor water quality. Recent testing indicated the city's drinking water supply complies with the Safe Drinking Water Act standards. However, the testing indicated the drinking water had elevated levels of manganese greater than the MDH recommended health guideline values.

### **Manganese:**

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in rocks and soil and is usually present in Minnesota ground and surface water. Manganese concentrations vary greatly throughout the state due to the differing soil and rock types. Your body needs some manganese to stay healthy but too much can be harmful. Elevated levels of Manganese can contribute to black staining of plumbing fixtures and in some instances pose a health risk to sensitive populations. The city has 3 wells that are tested for manganese, and all 3 wells have tested above the MDH health guidelines of 300 parts per billion (ppb). Manganese concentration in the City of Montrose water ranges from 423 ppb to 1450 ppb. Learn more by visiting the MDH webpage at [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) and searching for Manganese in Drinking Water.

### **Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines for Manganese:**

Manganese is an unregulated element and does not have an enforceable standard. However, the MDH recommended health guidelines are:

- If you have an infant who drinks tap water or drinks formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 100 ppb of manganese or less.
- 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 ppb or less.
- If everyone in your household is more than one-year-old, a safe level of manganese in your water is 300 ppb or less.

## **City Solution:**

The city is currently working with consultants and the MDH to determine possible short-term and long-term options to reduce the manganese levels in the city's drinking water. The city has purchased sampling and testing equipment to conduct monthly manganese testing.

## **Recommended Actions:**

There are several things residents can do to reduce manganese levels in the water.

- Purchase a water filter pitcher or a filtering unit to attach to your faucet. These items must be certified to remove manganese and the filter media changed according to the manufacturer's recommended intervals.
- Working with a residential water treatment company such as Culligan, to install a point of use water system certified for manganese removal.
- Purchase bottled water for consumption

If you do not have a home water treatment device that removes or reduces manganese, you may want to considering installing one or using bottled water that is labeled "purified" for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula.

Private Well Owners – Some Minnesota groundwater naturally has levels of manganese higher than the MDH guidance values. Homeowners with private wells are responsible for having their wells tested. Learn more on the Minnesota Department of Health's website [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) and search Owner's Guide to Wells.