

# Manganese in Public Water

## Manganese is naturally found in groundwater.

While small amounts of manganese are part of a healthy diet, high levels of manganese may impact the nervous system, affect reproduction, and damage the kidneys.

## Community water systems test for manganese at least once every nine years.

If the manganese level is high, the system will issue a *do not drink* advisory.

- At levels equal to or greater than 300 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), the system will issue an advisory for sensitive groups (people over 50 and babies under 6 months).
- At levels equal to or greater than 1000  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , the system will issue an advisory for the general population.

## If your water system issues a *do not drink* advisory for sensitive groups:



**People over 50** should immediately use a different source of water for drinking and making foods that take up lot of water (like rice, oatmeal, and jello).



Families should use a different source of water to make **baby formula**.

Options for different water include:



Bottled water



Water from a well without issues



Water from a public system



The water can still be used for bathing, brushing teeth, and washing dishes.

## If your water system issues a *do not drink* advisory for the general population:



At these levels, **everyone** should use an alternative source of water for drinking and preparing foods that take up lot of water.



The water can still be used for bathing, brushing teeth, and washing dishes.

Learn more at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/manganese.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/manganese.htm).



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Questions? Concerns?

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