

## FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

*April 24, 2020*

**Flood Warning\*:** - Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure

**High Water Advisory\*:** - Red River, from Lockport to Netley Creek

### **Summary**

- All flow and water level information is based on data available at 7:00 am. Morning Conditions reports, with current water level data, are available on the department's website, and flood sheets with updated forecast information will be posted at [https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts\\_reports](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).
- A flood warning is in place for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet, just south of the City of Winnipeg as the Red River is spilling its banks in most of this area.
- A high water advisory is in place for the Red River from Lockport to Netley Creek as water levels remain high and will continue to rise as the peak moves down the river.
- The Red River has peaked at all locations from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet control structure. The water levels are declining, but expected to remain out of bank until early May. With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is at 18.8 feet (5.73 m). James Avenue peaked yesterday at 19.0 (5.79 m).
- A number of roads are impacted by high water levels. For detours and a complete list of road closures please call 511 or visit [www.manitoba511.ca](http://www.manitoba511.ca).
  - PR 217, from St. Jean Baptiste to PR 200, is closed.
  - PR 246, 1 km north of the PR 217 junction, is closed.
  - The northernmost extent of PR 320, 6 km north of PTH 4 is closed, however clean up has begun.
- Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about forecasts, water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-1165 or by email to [floodinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:floodinfo@gov.mb.ca).

### **Weather**

- Minor precipitation is expected over the weekend across much of Manitoba, but is not expected to significantly impact water levels or flood forecasts.
- Temperature is forecasted to remain above freezing in northern Manitoba regions, including the Saskatchewan River and Carrot River basins. Above freezing temperatures have initiated the snow melt within these basins and further snow melt is expected to occur in the coming days.

## **Red River Basin**

- The Red River between Emerson and St. Jean is beginning to decline, areas from Morris to the Floodway inlet will remain near the peak for a few days before beginning to decline. The water levels are expected to remain out of bank until early May. Conditions will continue to be monitored and the latest water level information for the Red River is available online at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/index.html#river\\_conditions\\_plots](https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/index.html#river_conditions_plots).
- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley monitoring ring dike closures. Pumping operations are underway at most ring dike communities. Closures will be removed when conditions allow as water levels decline. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.
  - Partial dike closures are in place at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes, both diked areas remain accessible by road.
  - A partial dike closure on the east side of Letellier at PR 201 is in place.
  - A partial dike closure is in place on the east end of St. Jean Baptiste, the community remains accessible by PTH 75.
  - A ramped closure on the north side of St. Adolphe at PR 200 is in place. The highway ditches on the south end have been filled in to prevent water from backing up into town.
- The Red River Floodway continues to be operated under Rule 1, reducing water levels in Winnipeg while maintaining water levels upstream of the inlet control structure at or just below natural. Flow in the Floodway channel was 19,155 cfs (542 cms) this morning. The Floodway is expected to be operated into early to mid-May depending on weather conditions.
- With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is at 18.8 feet (5.73 m). James Avenue peaked yesterday at 19.0 (5.79 m). River levels within the City of Winnipeg will gradually decline over the next few days.

## **Northern Manitoba**

- The snow content in many northern Manitoba basins, including the Saskatchewan and Carrot River basins, is near normal to slightly lower than normal. Snow is melting as temperatures warm.
- Runoff within northern basins is expected to be near normal to slightly above normal and the rivers are expected to remain within the banks at most locations. The flood risk is generally low for northern Manitoba basins.
- As in previous years, there is a risk of ice pile up and ice jamming that could create a sudden rise of levels on these basins in a short period of time.

## **Manitoba Lakes**

- Manitoba's major lakes remain largely ice-covered but the ice is weak and is beginning to degrade. The largest lakes are reported at 70% or greater ice coverage, with some

smaller lakes in southern Manitoba showing as little as 20% ice coverage. With very light winds forecasted for the coming few days, the risk of ice pile up on most lakes is low.

- Inflow into most lakes has been generally lower than average (about 20 to 30% of historic). Water levels on most Manitoba lakes are expected to be within their operating ranges or near long-term average levels throughout the spring and summer. The risk of lake flooding remains low.
- Lake levels will be posted later today at  
[https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts\\_reports](https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports).

**\*Definitions**

Flood Warning: A flood warning is issued when river or lake levels are exceeding or are expected to be exceeding flood stage within the next 24 hours.

Flood Watch: A flood watch is issued when river or lake levels are approaching and likely to reach flood stage, but likely not within the next 24 hours.

High Water Advisory: A high water advisory is issued when a heavy storm or high flows are expected and may cause water levels to rise, but not necessarily reach flood stage. A high water advisory can be an early indicator for conditions that may lead to a flood watch or flood warning.