

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 13) released the latest grading of water quality for 37 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Nineteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 13 as Fair (Grade 2) and six as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach

Big Wave Bay Beach

Butterfly Beach

Cafeteria New Beach

Cafeteria Old Beach

Clear Water Bay First Beach

Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Golden Beach

Kadoorie Beach

Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach

Shek O Beach

Silverstrand Beach

Stanley Main Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach

Hoi Mei Wan Beach

Casam Beach

Lido Beach

Castle Peak Beach

Ting Kau Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Deep Water Bay Beach, Kwun Yam Beach and Middle Bay Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Clear Water Bay Second Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Casam Beach and Castle Peak Beach have been changed from Grade 2 to Grade 3.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (www.beachwq.gov.hk and www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.