<u>Grading of beach water quality</u> released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (March 12) released the latest grading of water quality for nine gazetted beaches(see Note).

Nine beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach Clear Water Bay Second Beach Deep Water Bay Beach Golden Beach Middle Bay Beach Repulse Bay Beach Silverstrand Beach Silver Mine Bay Beach Stanley Main Beach

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), 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.

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 EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note: In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced that all gazetted beaches were closed from December 10, 2020, until further notice.