

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (August 17) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 18 as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Anglers' Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Approach Beach	Lido Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Butterfly Beach	Pui O Beach
Casam Beach	Shek O Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Discovery Bay	Silverstrand Beach
Golden Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	Ting Kau Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Castle Peak Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Golden Beach, Pui O Beach and Silverstrand Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2.

"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.