Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (September 7) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay*).

Eighteen beaches were rated as $Good\ (Grade\ 1)$, 16 as $Fair\ (Grade\ 2)$ and five as $Poor\ (Grade\ 3)$.

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Grade 2 beaches are:

Butterfly Beach
Cafeteria New Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach
Casam Beach

Clear Water Bay First Beach

Deep Water Bay Beach Discovery Bay Golden Beach Hoi Mei Wan Beach Kadoorie Beach

Lido Beach

Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach

Pui O Beach

Silver Mine Bay Beach Silverstrand Beach Stanley Main Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach
Approach Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach

Castle Peak Beach
Ting Kau Beach

* Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Cafeteria New Beach and Clear Water Bay First Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Approach Beach, Big Wave Bay Beach, Castle Peak Beach and Ting Kau Beach 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.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.