

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (September 14) 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*).

Twelve beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 20 as Fair (Grade 2), six as Poor (Grade 3) and one as Very Poor (Grade 4).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	Repulse Bay Beach
Chung Hom Kok Beach	South Bay Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Cafeteria New Beach	Kiu Tsui Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Lido Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Pui O Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Shek O Beach
Discovery Bay	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Golden Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Kadoorie Beach	Trio Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Casam Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Butterfly Beach	Ting Kau Beach

Grade 4 beach is:
Anglers' Beach

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

Compared with the grading released last week, Castle Peak Beach has been upgraded from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Kiu Tsui Beach, Lower Cheung Sha Beach, Middle Bay Beach, Shek O Beach and Trio Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2; Butterfly Beach, Casam Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3; and Anglers' Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 4.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said. "For Anglers' Beach, the temporary deterioration of water quality was due to frequent heavy rain that occurred in late August and early September."

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the 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.

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.

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.