

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 18) released the latest grading of water quality for 37 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 11 as Fair (Grade 2) and seven as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

1. Discovery Bay

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Grade 2 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach
Butterfly Beach
Cafeteria New Beach

Cafeteria Old Beach
Castle Peak Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach

Golden Beach
Kadoorie Beach

Pui O Beach

Shek O Beach
Stanley Main Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach
Approach Beach
Casam Beach
Hoi Mei Wan Beach

Lido Beach
Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Ting Kau Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Big Wave Bay Beach, Golden Beach, Pui O Beach and Shek O Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Approach Beach, Casam Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan 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.beachwq.gov.hk and www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.