

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 31) 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*).

Fifteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 14 as Fair (Grade 2), nine 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	Shek O Beach
Discovery Bay	South Bay Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Pui O Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Cafeteria New Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Kiu Tsui Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Trio Beach
Golden Beach	Turtle Cove Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Approach Beach	Lido Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Butterfly Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Casam Beach	

Grade 4 beach is:
Lower Cheung Sha Beach

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

Compared with the grading released last week, Kiu Tsui Beach, Trio Beach and Turtle Cove Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2; Approach Beach, Casam Beach, Lido Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3; and Lower Cheung Sha Beach from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

"The deterioration of water quality at Lower Cheung Sha Beach was due to the heavy rain on May 28, while the changes in the other beaches 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 website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.