

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (August 2) 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*).

Sixteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 19 as Fair (Grade 2), three as Poor (Grade 3) and one as Very Poor (Grade 4).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	Lo So Shing Beach
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Repulse Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Discovery Bay	Stanley Main Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Trio Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Lido Beach
Butterfly Beach	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Casam Beach	Pui O Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Shek O Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	South Bay Beach
Golden Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Kadoorie Beach	

Grade 3 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	

Grade 4 beach is:
Silver Mine Bay Beach

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

Compared with the grading released last week, Kwun Yam Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1 and Cafeteria Old Beach, Casam Beach and Ting Kau Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Silver Mine Bay Beach has been changed from Grade 2 to Grade 4.

"The deterioration of water quality in Silver Mine Bay Beach was due to the recent unsteady weather, while the changes in 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.