

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 29) released the latest grading of water quality for 37 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Nineteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 15 as Fair (Grade 2) and four as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach	Pui O Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	Repulse Bay Beach
Chung Hom Kok Beach	South Bay Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Trio Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Lower Cheung Sha Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Golden Beach
Butterfly Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Shek O Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Discovery Bay	

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Casam Beach	Lido Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach has

been upgraded from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Cafeteria New Beach, Golden Beach and Middle Bay Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Casam Beach, Hoi Mei Wan Beach and Lido 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.