

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 26) released the latest grading of water quality for 39 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (see Note 2).

Twenty-two beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), and 18 as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Repulse Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	Shek O Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	Silverstrand Beach*
Discovery Bay Tai Pak Beach	South Bay Beach*
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	St. Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Kiu Tsui Beach	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach*
Kwun Yam Beach	Trio Beach
Lido Beach*	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach*	Golden Beach*
Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach*	Kadoorie Beach
Butterfly Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Pui O Beach*
Casam Beach*	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Ting Kau Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Tong Fuk Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Lido Beach, Shek O Beach and Upper Cheung Sha Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Cafeteria Old Beach, Castle Peak Beach and Kadoorie Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor

(Grade 4), 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, an 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 tropical cyclone 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 EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666. Members of the public can also obtain the latest daily water quality forecast information for all beaches that are open for swimming through the Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application (available for download from: www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page (www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast) on the EPD's beach thematic website.

Note 1: Lifesaving services are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 21 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk (*) above, from June 1. Due to the damage caused to the footpaths leading to Chung Hom Kok Beach by landslides, the beach is temporarily closed until further notice. For details, please refer to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Special Announcement (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/index.html).

Note 2: This refers to Discovery Bay Tai Pak Beach which is a non-gazetted beach that has no lifesaving service.

“HA Risk Alert” latest issue published

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The 74th issue of "HA Risk Alert" was published today (July 26) by the Hospital Authority (HA) as a risk management and communication initiative to further strengthen the reporting and monitoring of clinical incidents in public hospitals.

In the first quarter of 2024 (January to March), six sentinel events were reported, comprising one case of retained instruments/material after surgery/interventional procedure, two cases of wrong body part, one case of inpatient suicide and two cases in other category. Among the 23 reported serious untoward events, there were 20 related to medication errors and three patient misidentifications.

"Subsequent to the incident reviews and analyses of the root causes of these incidents, important lessons for patient safety have been identified, while recommendations are made and shared in this publication to avoid similar events in the future," An HA spokesperson said.

In addition, experts in emergency medicine and paediatrics appointed by the HA earlier have reviewed the guidelines on the practice of bedside procedures for paediatric patients in the public hospitals, and have provided a number of suggestions. The HA consolidated and published the expert review panel's suggestions in the latest "HA Risk Alert" and has again reminded clinical teams to strengthen the monitoring of the paediatrics patients when performing bedside clinical procedures, to improve communication with patients and their families, as well as to arrange procedural sedations for patients when necessary.

The HA has also earlier reminded clinical teams to carefully follow and execute the guidelines through co-ordinating committees and various platforms. Staff trainings will also be strengthened to ensure the safety of paediatrics patients during bedside procedures.

The HA Head Office has released the latest "HA Risk Alert" to all staff. It can also be accessed by the public at www.ha.org.hk/riskalert. "HA Risk Alert" is published on a quarterly basis and posted on the HA website on the last working Friday in the months of January, April, July and October. The next issue is scheduled for October 25, 2024 (Friday).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, July 26, 2024 is 106.2 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Candidates interested in applying for A0, E0II, ATOII and TOII reminded to take part in Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law and National

Security Law Test

The Government announced today (July 26) that the next round of recruitment exercises for the posts of Administrative Officer (A0), Executive Officer II (EOII), Assistant Trade Officer II (ATOII) and Transport Officer II (TOII) will begin in September 2024.

As part of the entry requirements, applicants for these posts will need to attain:

- (a) Level 2 in the two language papers (Use of Chinese and Use of English) in the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) or other results which are accepted as equivalent (details are set out on the Civil Service Bureau (CSB)'s website at www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html);
- (b) a Pass result in the Aptitude Test paper in the CRE; and
- (c) a Pass result in the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) (degree/professional grades).

Candidates who wish to apply for the posts mentioned above but do not attain the requisite results should apply through an online application system on the CSB's website to take the relevant paper(s) in this round of the CRE and the BLNST in order to be considered for appointment. The CRE and the BLNST will be held in Hong Kong, and tentatively in Beijing, Shanghai and five overseas cities, with details as follows:

Location	Application period	Tentative examination date
Hong Kong	July 27 to August 9 (5pm)	October 5
Beijing, Shanghai, London, New York, Toronto, Vancouver and Sydney (tentative)	To be announced later	December 7

In addition, students who are pursuing a bachelor's degree or equivalent, and graduating in the years of 2025 or 2026 are also eligible to apply for the posts and/or apply to take the CRE and the BLNST.

Details relating to the CRE and the BLNST and the online application system will be made available on the CSB's website during the respective application periods. Details of the 2024-25 A0, EOII, ATOII and TOII recruitment exercises will be separately announced in September.

The CSB may adjust the arrangements for the CRE and the BLNST as appropriate. Please refer to the CSB's website at www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html for any updates on the examination arrangements.

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on July 25 to noon today (July 26), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 302 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan"

(www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 52 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 71 386 samples of food imported from Japan (including 45 830 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea

salt) and 16 746 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.