

# Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (April 23) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay, see Note 2).

Thirty-three beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and six as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Lo So Shing Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Pui O Beach
Casam Beach*	Repulse Bay Beach*
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Shek O Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silverstrand Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	South Bay Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach*	St Stephen's Beach
Discovery Bay	Stanley Main Beach*
Golden Beach*	Ting Kau Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	Tong Fuk Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Trio Beach
Kadoorie Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Butterfly Beach*	Lido Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*

Compared with the grading released last week, Approach Beach and Ting Kau Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Anglers' 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.

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](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note 1: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has resumed lifeguard services at 16 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk above, from April 16.

Note 2: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

---

## [Man sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order](#)

A 25-year-old man was sentenced to immediate imprisonment for 14 days by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (April 23) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) (the Regulation).

The man was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, he left the place of quarantine and he was also found to have taken off his electronic wristband on September 18, 2020, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. He was charged with contravening sections 8(1), 8(4) and 8(5) of the Regulation and was sentenced by the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today to immediate imprisonment for 14 days for each of the two charges, with the sentences to run concurrently.

Breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. A spokesman for the Department of Health said the sentencing sends a clear message to the community that breaching a compulsory quarantine order is a criminal offence that the Government will not tolerate, and solemnly reminded the public to comply with the regulations. As of today, a total of 127 persons have been convicted by the courts for breaching compulsory quarantine orders and have received sentences including immediate imprisonment for up to 14 weeks or a fine of up to \$15,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the relevant regulations.

---

## [Mercury Control Bill gazetted](#)

The Mercury Control Bill was published in the Gazette today (April 23), and will be introduced into the Legislative Council for first and second readings on May 5.

The Bill seeks to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury to regulate matters including the import, export, keeping and use of mercury, mercury mixtures and mercury compounds, as well as the import, export, manufacture and supply of mercury-added products.

The Bill has four main provisions, namely the introduction of a permit system to control the import and export of all forms of mercury, the phasing out of mercury-added products listed in the Convention, the phasing out of the use of mercury and mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in the Convention, and the introduction of a permit system to control the storage of all forms of mercury and mercury compounds.

A spokesman for the Environment Bureau said, "The Bill ensures the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)'s full compliance with the international obligations of the Convention, and protects public health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds."

The Convention, which came into force in August 2017, is an international treaty. The People's Republic of China is one of the parties to the Convention, which also applies to the HKSAR.

---

## [Government releases Report of the Independent Audit Panel for Implementation of Recommendations in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Construction Works at and near the Hung Hom Station](#)

## [Extension under the Shatin to Central Link Project](#)

The Independent Audit Panel for Implementation of Recommendations in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Construction Works at and near the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link Project submitted its audit report to the Chief Executive on March 26. The report was uploaded to the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) website today (April 23) ([www.thb.gov.hk/eng/psp/publications/transport/studies/index.htm](http://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/psp/publications/transport/studies/index.htm)).

In regard to the 78 recommendations put forward by the Commission to promote public safety and assurance on quality of works, the Panel is of the view that 50 have been fully implemented and satisfactory progress towards the full implementation of the other 28 is being made. To ensure the full implementation of these 28 recommendations, the Panel suggests that the THB should continue to monitor the implementation progress.

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Chairman of the Panel, Mr Wong Kwai-huen, and the Members of the Panel, Professor Lo Hong-kam and Mr Chan Chi-chiu, for their efforts in conducting the independent follow-up audit on the implementation progress of the various recommended measures in the Commission's Final Report and compiling the audit report.

The THB will continue to monitor the implementation progress of the Commission's recommendations.

---

## [Seventeen persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations \(with photo\)](#)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Twilight" from April 19 to yesterday (April 22). A total of 12 suspected illegal workers and five suspected employers were arrested.

During operations "Twilight", ImmD Task Force officers raided 45 target locations including a commercial building, a container yard, food processing factories, a garbage collection depot, a manicure shop, a massage parlour, premises under renovation, recycling yards, residential buildings, restaurants, a wet market and a vegetable stall. Twelve suspected illegal

workers and five employers were arrested. The suspected illegal workers comprised seven men and five women, aged 27 to 59. Among them, four men were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. In addition, a man was suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. Meanwhile, three men and two women, aged 44 to 60, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the

nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

