

EPD - Beach Water Quality

Beach Water Quality in Hong Kong 2019

Our Mission:

To safeguard the health and welfare of the community and meet conservation goals by working to achieve and maintain the bacteriological Water Quality Objective for bathing beaches

[Photo: Hong Kong's picturesque coastline]

Introduction

Hong Kong is famed for its enchanting bays and beaches. Every year, millions of bathers visit the beaches to enjoy swimming and sunbathing. Having clean bathing water is of paramount importance to public health.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has implemented a comprehensive Beach Water Quality Monitoring Programme. This report summarises the beach monitoring data and the corresponding beach grading during the 2019 bathing season as well as compliance with the bacteriological Water Quality Objective (WQO) for bathing waters.

[Photo: Vibrancy at the beaches in the summer]

In 2019, the EPD monitored 41 gazetted beaches and two non-gazetted beaches in the territory. The beaches were monitored weekly by EPD staff during the bathing season from March to October through field observations and water sample collection for laboratory analyses of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) as the bacteriological water quality indicator. *In-situ* measurements of dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature and turbidity of beach water were also taken for reference.

[Photo: Water sampling and field measurement at the beaches]

[Photo: Measurement of *E. coli* level at EPD's environmental microbiology laboratory]

Hong Kong adopts a dual rating system to assess beach water quality: annual ranking and weekly grading. Both are based on the *E. coli* level in the beach water to represent the risk of contracting minor gastrointestinal and skin illnesses through swimming. The annual ranking reflects the overall water quality of the beach over the entire bathing season, while the weekly grading traces the recent change in water quality. Under the dual rating system, beaches are categorised into “Good”, “Fair”, “Poor” and “Very Poor”. Beaches with “Good” or “Fair” annual ranking meet the bacteriological WQO for bathing waters.

[Photo: Weekly beach water quality grading displayed on a noticeboard at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach]

Annual Beach Ranking in 2019

All 41 gazetted beaches in Hong Kong complied with the bacteriological WQO in 2019. When compared to 2018, the number of beaches ranked as “Good” has decreased from 26 (or 63 %) to 21 (or 51 %), and the number of beaches ranked as “Fair” has increased from 15 (or 37%) to 20 (or 49%). No beach received “Poor” or “Very Poor” ranking.

[Photo: Hung Shing Yeh Beach maintaining “Good” annual ranking since 1986]

The above changes in beach water rating in 2019 were normal and associated with the relatively unstable weather during the bathing season. The cumulative rainfall in this bathing season (2 309 mm) was 65% higher

than the same period in 2018, and also 2% higher than the 30-year climatological normal during 1981-2010. Fluctuations of beach water quality could occur at some beaches after heavy rainstorms when pollutants from the beach hinterland were flushed to the nearshore water by the surface runoff. The phenomenon was particularly noticeable between March and July characterised by heavy rainstorms of short duration yet high frequency. Besides, the fewer total bright sunshine hours recorded in several months (the numbers in May and July were lower than the 30-year climatological normals of the particular months by 41% and 29% respectively) also slowed down the natural recovery of the beach water quality. Nevertheless, the overall E. coli levels in the bathing water were still generally within the normal range of fluctuation.

Similar to previous years, the beaches located in the Southern (Hong Kong Island South), Islands and Sai Kung Districts received better annual ranking.

Among the twelve beaches in the Southern District, nine beaches remained as “Good” and two as “Fair”, while Shek O Beach changed from “Good” to “Fair”. In the Islands District, Lower Cheung Sha Beach changed from “Good” to “Fair”, the same ranking as Silver Mine Bay Beach, and the remaining seven beaches continued to receive a “Good” ranking. In the Sai Kung District, except a change in ranking from “Good” to “Fair” at Silverstrand Beach, all other five beaches remained as “Good”.

All eight beaches in the Tsuen Wan District and all six beaches in the Tuen Mun District were ranked as “Fair”.

[Photo: St. Stephen’s Beach with very stable water quality]

Seven beaches along Castle Peak Road had once been closed before 2010 due to poor water quality. Since the completion of sewerage works in the beach hinterland and the commissioning of the disinfection facilities of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme in March 2010, the water quality of these seven beaches has improved and met the bacteriological WQO for bathing waters since then. This has led to the gradual re-opening of all these beaches during 2011 – 2014.

[Photo: The beaches in the Tsuen Wan District benefited by the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and resuming stable water quality]

In 2019, EPD also monitored two non-gazetted beaches: Discovery Bay (a popular beach in Lantau Island) and New Kiu Tsui (a sandy beach adjacent to Kiu Tsui Beach in Sai Kung). Both beaches received a “Good” ranking. Monitoring at Lung Mei in Tai Po has been suspended since March 2019 due to the ongoing construction works under Lung Mei Beach Project.

Weekly Beach Grading in 2019

To provide the public with the latest beach water quality, the EPD issues weekly grading of beaches in their opening periods through different means including the press releases, EPD's website, the beach enquiry hotline, GeoInfo Map of the GovHK website and noticeboards at the beaches.

In 2019, most of the beaches in the Southern District maintained very good water quality and largely received “Good” or “Fair” grading, with the exception of Big Wave Bay Beach which experienced some fluctuations in June and July due to discharge of likely contaminated stream water to the bathing zone as a result of a collapse of the bank of a nearby stream during inclement weather. The beach water quality returned to normal level in August after completion of stream restoration works by the Drainage Services Department. Chung Hom Kok Beach, Deep Water Bay Beach and South Bay Beach each recorded “Very Poor” grading after heavy rain once in the year.

Beaches in the Islands District had decent water quality, and on average received “Good” grading for 76% of time during the bathing season, which was the best performance among all districts. In particular, three beaches, namely Hung Shing Yeh Beach, Lo So Shung Beach and Tong Fuk Beach, received “Good” grading for the entire bathing season for two consecutive years. On the other hand, Lower Cheung Sha Beach changed

to “Very Poor” once after heavy downpours, while Silver Mine Bay Beach received “Very Poor” grading three times between March and July associated with rain events.

[Photo: Lower Cheung Sha Beach stretching out in the gentle waves]

Beaches in the Sai Kung District saw another year of fine water quality. Among them, Hap Mun Bay Beach achieved “Good” grading throughout the bathing season for six consecutive years. Clear Water Bay First Beach, Clear Water Bay Second Beach and Kiu Tsui Beach changed to “Very Poor” one to three times, largely due to antecedent rainfall.

Beaches in the Tuen Mun District had stable water quality, and largely received “Fair” grading in this bathing season. Cafeteria New Beach, Cafeteria Old Beach and Castle Peak Beach each received “Very Poor” grading once but recovered on the following day.

[Photo: A quiet beach for leisure swimming at Kadoorie Beach]

Under the relatively unstable weather in 2019, all the Tsuen Wan beaches experienced one or two occasions of “Very Poor” grading after rainstorms, but their overall grading status had not markedly changed. Casam Beach and Lido Beach even achieved “Good” grading frequently towards the end of the bathing season.

Water Quality Trend

All of the gazetted beaches in Hong Kong have been in full compliance with the bacteriological WQO for 10 consecutive years. The bacteriological WQO compliance rate decreased from 74% in 1986 (29 of 39 beaches) to 63% (26 of 41 beaches) in 1997, and then progressively increased to 100% in 2010 and the record has been maintained since then.

Comparison of annual beach ranking of gazetted beaches in 1986, 1997 and 2019

Year	WQO Compliant		WQO Non-compliant	
	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1986	23.1% (9)	51.3% (20)	17.9% (7)	7.7% (3)
1997	24.4% (10)	39.0% (16)	29.3% (12)	7.3% (3)
2019	51.2% (21)	48.8% (20)	-	-

() No. of beaches

Note: Two beaches degazetted in 1995 were excluded from all the statistics above.

Looking back to the 1980s, many beaches were closed (e.g. Cafeteria Old Beach, Castle Peak Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach) or on the verge of being closed (e.g. Middle Bay Beach and Repulse Bay Beach) due to poor water quality. There was a further drop in compliance rate in the mid-1990s due to population growth particularly in the new town areas. In the last two decades, there has been progressive improvement in beach water quality attributable to various proactive pollution abatement measures, including enforcement of environmental legislation, extension of the sewerage network and provision of new sewage treatment facilities across the territory including the beach hinterland, as well as implementation of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme. Major improvement measures implemented in the past are summarized in the following table.

Major improvement measures for the beaches since the implementation of beach water quality monitoring programme in 1986	
1986 – 1990	Beaches with Water Quality Improvement
Implementation of the Livestock Waste Control Scheme under the Waste Disposal (Livestock Waste) Regulation.	Most beaches, particularly Silver Mine Bay Beach
Declaration of the Southern Water Control Zone (WCZ) under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) for legislative enforcement.	Southern beaches
Interception and diversion of polluted storm drains at beaches in Southern District.	Southern beaches
1991- 1995	
Implementation of chemical waste control.	All beaches
Declaration of the North Western WCZ under the WPCO for legislative enforcement.	Tuen Mun beaches
Diversion of polluted storm water drains away from Castle Peak Beach.	Castle Peak Beach
Provision of public sewers for So Kwun Wat and Sam Shing Estate.	Tuen Mun Beaches
Commissioning of Stanley Sewage Treatment Works (STW).	Stanley Main Beach
1996 - 2000	
Full implementation of the WPCO in all WCZs.	All beaches
Commissioning of the Shek O Sewage Screening Plant and diversion of polluted storm water drains at Shek O Village.	Shek O Beach
Completion of all major works under Southern Sewerage Master Plan.	Southern beaches
Commissioning of the new 2 km long Pillar Point sewage submarine outfall.	Tuen Mun beaches
2001 - 2005	
Completion of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 1.	Big Wave Bay, Shek O, Rocky Bay Beaches
Provision of public sewers in the Silverstrand area.	Silverstrand Beach
Full operation of the Sham Tseng STW.	Beaches along the Tsuen Wan coast
2006 - 2019	
Commissioning of the Advance Disinfection Facilities at Stonecutters Island STW.	All Tsuen Wan beaches
Extension of the public sewerage network to the beach hinterland along Castle Peak Road.	Beaches along the Tsuen Wan coast
Full scale commissioning of all facilities of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2A.	Beaches along the Tsuen Wan coast

All of the gazetted beaches in Hong Kong have steadily met the required health-based standard for swimming. The EPD will continue to closely monitor the beach water quality to support water quality management policy and as reference for beach users.

Compliance rate with bacteriological WQO at gazetted beaches during 1997 – 2019

[Figure: Compliance rate with bacteriological WQO at gazetted beaches during 1997 - 2019]

Water quality trend lines of all gazetted beaches over the last 34 years are provided in this report. More in-depth background and details of the beach monitoring programme are available at the beach water quality thematic website (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach>), which also provides access to the annual beach water quality reports and data published since 2000.

[Photos: Fun activities at beach]

The Monitoring Programme

Beaches monitored by the EPD

Southern District	Sai Kung District	Tsuen Wan District	Tuen Mun District	Islands District	Tai Po District
Deep Water Bay Repulse Bay Middle Bay South Bay Chung Hom Kok St. Stephen's Stanley Main Hairpin Turtle Cove Shek O Rocky Bay Big Wave Bay	Kiu Tsui Hap Mun Bay Trio Silverstrand Clear Water Bay First Clear Water Bay Second Kiu Tsui (New)**	Ma Wan Tung Wan Anglers' Gemini Hoi Mei Wan Casam Lido Ting Kau Approach	Butterfly Castle Peak Kadoorie Cafeteria Old Cafeteria New Golden	Silver Mine Bay Pui O Lower Cheung Sha Upper Cheung Sha Tong Fuk Cheung Chau Tung Wan Kwun Yam Hung Shing Yeh Lo So Shing Discovery Bay**	Lung Mei**

** Non-gazetted beaches

Beach monitoring frequency

Beach	Monitoring frequency per month	
	Bathing season *	Non-bathing season
Gazetted beaches open all year round	at least 3 times	at least 3 times
Other gazetted beaches	at least 3 times	once
Non-gazetted beaches	at least 3 times	once

* March to October

Overview of various stages of the Beach Monitoring Programme

[Image of overview of various stages of the Beach Monitoring Programme]

Hong Kong's annual beach ranking system

Rank	<i>E. coli</i> counts per 100 mL*	Minor illness rate** (Cases per 1,000 swimmers)	WQO Compliance
Good	≤24	Undetectable	Compliant
Fair	25-180	≤10	
Poor	181-610	11-15	Non-compliant
Very Poor	>610	>15	

* Geometric mean *E. coli* count calculated based on all data collected between March and October.

** Skin and gastrointestinal illnesses

Hong Kong's weekly beach grading system

Grade	Beach water quality	<i>E. coli</i> counts per 100 mL*	Minor illness rate ** (Cases per 1,000 swimmers)
1	Good	≤24	Undetectable
2	Fair	25-180	≤10
3	Poor	181-610	11-15
4	Very Poor	>610 or last reading >1,600	>15

* Unless otherwise indicated, the *E. coli* count represents the geometric mean of the 5 most recent sampling occasions.

** Skin and gastrointestinal illnesses

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2019 Annual ranking and bathing season geometric mean *E. coli* levels of Hong Kong's gazetted beaches

Annual Ranking	Beach	<i>E. coli</i> (counts/100ml)
Good	Hap Mun Bay	2
	Lo So Shing	3
	Hung Shing Yeh	4
	Repulse Bay	4
	South Bay	4
	St. Stephen's	5
	Tong Fuk	5
	Chung Hom Kok	6
	Hairpin *	7
	Kwun Yam	7
	Stanley Main	7
	Upper Cheung Sha	7
	Cheung Chau Tung Wan	8
	Kiu Tsui	8
	Trio	9
	Turtle Cove	9
	Clear Water Bay Second	17
	Middle Bay	18
	Deep Water Bay	19
	Pui O	22
Clear Water Bay First	23	
Fair	Lower Cheung Sha	25
	Shek O	25
	Cafeteria New	40
	Silverstrand	40
	Golden	41
	Ma Wan Tung Wan	46
	Rocky Bay *	47
	Kadoorie	52
	Cafeteria Old	64
	Lido	65
	Casam	79
	Gemini *	79
	Anglers'	88
	Butterfly	91
	Approach	97
	Ting Kau	102
	Big Wave Bay	103
	Silver Mine Bay	106
	Hoi Mei Wan	112
	Castle Peak	128

*Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Annual ranking of gazetted beaches at a glance in 2019

District	Beach	Annual Ranking
Southern	Big Wave Bay	Fair
	Chung Hom Kok	Good
	Deep Water Bay	Good
	Hairpin*	Good
	Middle Bay	Good
	Repulse Bay	Good
	Rocky Bay*	Fair
	Shek O	Fair
	South Bay	Good
	St. Stephen's	Good
	Stanley Main	Good
	Turtle Cove	Good
	Sai Kung	Clear Water Bay First
Clear Water Bay Second		Good
Hap Mun Bay		Good
Kiu Tsui		Good
Silverstrand		Fair
Trio		Good
Tsuen Wan	Anglers'	Fair
	Approach	Fair
	Casam	Fair
	Gemini*	Fair
	Hoi Mei Wan	Fair
	Lido	Fair
	Ting Kau	Fair
	Ma Wan Tung Wan	Fair
Tuen Mun	Butterfly	Fair
	Cafeteria New	Fair
	Cafeteria Old	Fair
	Castle Peak	Fair
	Golden	Fair
	Kadoorie	Fair
Islands	Cheung Chau Tung Wan	Good
	Hung Shing Yeh	Good
	Kwun Yam	Good
	Lo So Shing	Good
	Lower Cheung Sha	Fair
	Pui O	Good
	Silver Mine Bay	Fair
	Tong Fuk	Good
	Upper Cheung Sha	Good

*Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Weekly beach grading summary of open gazetted beaches by district in 2019

District	Percentage of Weekly Gradings				Total no. of Grading Occasions
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	
Southern	73%	21%	4%	2%	344
Sai Kung	68%	29%	0%	3%	216
Tsuen Wan	15%	57%	26%	3%	246
Tuen Mun	15%	72%	12%	1%	207
Islands	75%	20%	4%	1%	307

Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Southern District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Big Wave Bay	Fair	17 %	40 %	34 %	9 %
Chung Hom Kok	Good	91 %	6 %	0 %	3 %
Deep Water Bay	Good	63 %	29 %	6 %	3 %
Hairpin *	Good	82 %	18 %	0 %	0 %
Middle Bay	Good	56 %	44 %	0 %	0 %
Repulse Bay	Good	100 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
Rocky Bay *	Fair	38 %	41 %	6 %	15 %
Shek O	Fair	53 %	47 %	0 %	0 %
South Bay	Good	86 %	11 %	0 %	3 %
St. Stephen's	Good	94 %	6 %	0 %	0 %
Stanley Main	Good	97 %	3 %	0 %	0 %
Turtle Cove	Good	74 %	26 %	0 %	0 %

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

* Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Sai Kung District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Clear Water Bay First	Good	47 %	45 %	0 %	8 %
Clear Water Bay Second	Good	57 %	35 %	3 %	5 %
Hap Mun Bay	Good	100 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
Kiu Tsui	Good	92 %	6 %	0 %	3 %
Silverstrand	Fair	23 %	77 %	0 %	0 %
Trio	Good	91 %	9 %	0 %	0 %

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Tsuen Wan District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Anglers'	Fair	0 %	74 %	23 %	3 %
Approach	Fair	6 %	60 %	31 %	3 %
Casam	Fair	20 %	51 %	26 %	3 %
Gemini *	Fair	3 %	68 %	29 %	0 %
Hoi Mei Wan	Fair	0 %	56 %	39 %	6 %
Lido	Fair	31 %	42 %	22 %	6 %
Ting Kau	Fair	9 %	66 %	23 %	3 %
Ma Wan Tung Wan	Fair	38 %	47 %	15 %	0 %

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

* Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Tuen Mun District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Butterfly	Fair	3 %	85 %	12 %	0 %
Cafeteria New	Fair	23 %	74 %	0 %	3 %
Cafeteria Old	Fair	20 %	60 %	17 %	3 %
Castle Peak	Fair	0 %	66 %	31 %	3 %
Golden	Fair	26 %	74 %	0 %	0 %
Kadoorie	Fair	21 %	71 %	9 %	0 %

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Islands District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Cheung Chau Tung Wan	Good	91 %	9 %	0 %	0 %
Hung Shing Yeh	Good	100 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
Kwun Yam	Good	88 %	12 %	0 %	0 %
Lo So Shing	Good	100 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
Lower Cheung Sha	Fair	57 %	40 %	0 %	3 %
Pui O	Good	47 %	53 %	0 %	0 %
Silver Mine Bay	Fair	8 %	54 %	30 %	8 %
Tong Fuk	Good	100 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
Upper Cheung Sha	Good	91 %	9 %	0 %	0 %

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual beach rankings of gazetted beaches from 1986 to 2019

Year	Number of Beaches in Each Rank				Total
	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	
1986	9	20	7	3	39
1987	5	21	9	5	40
1988	7	19	7	7	40
1989	13	18	7	2	40
1990	14	19	5	2	40
1991	17	14	7	2	40
1992	16	14	7	3	40
1993	15	12	10	3	40
1994	13	14	11	2	40
1995	14	10	13	4	41
1996	13	14	10	4	41
1997	10	16	12	3	41
1998	16	16	8	1	41
1999	22	13	6	0	41
2000	21	14	6	0	41
2001	21	13	5	2	41
2002	23	10	2	6	41
2003	23	11	1	6	41
2004	25	9	5	2	41
2005	23	11	1	6	41
2006	22	12	5	2	41
2007	25	9	7	0	41
2008	24	10	7	0	41
2009	23	15	3	0	41
2010	23	18	0	0	41
2011	31	10	0	0	41
2012	23	18	0	0	41
2013	24	17	0	0	41
2014	23	18	0	0	41
2015	25	16	0	0	41
2016	18	23	0	0	41
2017	23	18	0	0	41
2018	26	15	0	0	41
2019	21	20	0	0	41

Note: Two beaches degazetted in 1995 were excluded from all the statistics above

Comparison of annual beach ranking of gazetted beaches in 1986 and 2019

Year	WQO Compliant		WQO Non-compliant	
	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1986	23.1% (9)	51.3% (20)	17.9% (7)	7.7% (3)
2019	51.2% (21)	48.8% (20)	0% (0)	0% (0)

() No. of beaches

Note: Two beaches degazetted in 1995 were excluded from all the statistics above

Annual geometric mean *E. coli* levels of gazetted beaches by district, 1997 - 2019

Year	Southern	Sai Kung	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Islands
1997	55	26	562	326	24
1998	34	17	321	125	12
1999	16	9	231	59	7
2000	16	11	219	57	8
2001	18	13	321	101	12
2002	10	12	666	70	7
2003	11	14	566	85	8
2004	9	10	405	64	5
2005	14	14	576	77	8
2006	13	11	447	122	11
2007	9	8	294	77	9
2008	11	13	247	56	12
2009	11	13	163	43	10
2010	14	10	90	39	8
2011	7	5	25	34	7
2012	11	10	50	47	8
2013	12	15	85	54	11
2014	12	13	76	44	12
2015	14	8	70	45	10
2016	17	18	57	66	16
2017	9	11	51	46	12
2018	8	10	97	31	8
2019	12	12	81	63	11

Note: Annual geometric mean *E.coli* levels calculated based on all the data collected between March and October

Annual geometric mean *E. coli* levels (1997 - 2019)

Beach	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Southern District																							
Big Wave Bay	179	114	77	98	106	23	33	26	101	50	17	31	46	149	17	31	21	40	21	78	36	34	103
Chung Hom Kok	22	40	14	8	15	13	14	9	13	10	9	13	14	9	5	5	8	13	13	6	6	4	6
Deep Water Bay	55	46	14	16	18	9	9	7	8	7	7	9	12	9	6	9	11	14	19	24	14	11	19
Hairpin	44	72	17	18	10	6	7	7	13*	11*	19*	10*	12*	33*	6*	9*	14*	12*	8*	17*	5*	8*	7*
Middle Bay	40	16	11	11	8	9	14	12	20	18	9	11	12	12	6	15	14	13	13	20	14	9	18
Repulse Bay	23	11	8	9	13	9	12	4	8	12	7	14	11	7	6	7	10	11	14	10	5	4	4
Rocky Bay	399*	223*	72*	80*	118*	43*	28*	19*	30*	33*	17*	15*	13*	50*	23*	30*	22*	16*	35*	47*	18*	29*	47*
Shek O	102	70	32	29	31	13	11	16	19	24	18	22	11	19	11	16	15	18	29	26	16	19	25
South Bay	17	6	4	7	5	5	11	9	7	7	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	5	9	5	3	2	4
St. Stephen's	40	26	11	6	7	5	9	4	12	11	6	9	6	4	4	4	10	5	6	7	4	4	5
Stanley Main	72	24	13	12	9	8	6	5	7	10	9	10	13	20	6	34	19	9	20	23	8	11	7
Turtle Cove	40	14	12	11	15	8	4	5	8	7	5	5	5	8	4	6	6	8	5	11	5	3	9
Sai Kung District																							
Clear Water Bay First	62	41	11	16	28	28	17	9	16	20	14	11	15	10	7	8	24	15	14	31	20	19	23
Clear Water Bay Second	66	44	12	26	22	14	21	10	19	13	9	19	27	13	5	18	15	18	17	32	16	13	17
Hap Mun Bay	3	2	2	2	1	2	4	3	4	4	3	5	3	3	2	2	7	4	2	4	3	3	2
Kiu Tsui	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	17	14	11	6	13	16	13	9	10	13	11	6	10	5	8	8
Silverstrand	148	99	32	61	100	133	97	74	67	30	33	35	51	28	18	30	39	40	18	63	56	24	40
Trio	30	21	17	10	12	6	10	2	6	5	2	12	5	6	2	9	8	10	4	13	7	7	9
Tsuen Wan District																							
Anglers'	691*	502*	442*	326*	621*	1169*	693*	619*	895*	772*	496*	510*	276*	134*	27*	69*	133	130	77	76	45	143	88
Approach	1009*	435*	387*	316*	411*	696*	762*	470*	663*	599*	352*	251*	208*	124*	59	83	106	121	143	78	114	92	97
Casam	609	239	231	209	233	741	702*	594*	716*	426*	305*	289*	144*	102*	21	50	71	63	52	42	43	94	79
Gemini	458	399	350	258	323	1155	875*	1102*	1042*	853*	566*	481*	410*	137*	19*	40*	135*	110*	56*	40*	39*	120*	79*
Hoi Mei Wan	471	280	109	177	199	547	442*	287*	641*	308*	286*	271*	130*	87*	23	51	86	58	90	65	63	92	112
Lido	600	262	231	181	269	683	734*	523*	782*	459*	280*	296*	178*	87*	21	32	53	57	52	39	34	76	65
Ma Wan Tung Wan	110	92	51	39	133	201	159	101	132	171	78	53	60	17	10	24	41	31	20	32	29	74	46
Ting Kau	1583*	1045*	515*	593*	739*	742*	831*	412*	512*	469*	405*	258*	145*	141*	58*	88*	107*	89	151	140	75	101	102
Tuen Mun District																							
Butterfly	259	121	44	61	74	60	74	55	55	94	84	56	49	30	41	42	71	38	98	131	81	39	91
Cafeteria New	309	100	60	51	104	62	80	54	70	120	68	48	38	31	27	47	50	31	30	38	31	18	40
Cafeteria Old	435	138	58	57	125	74	76	61	81	150	67	45	46	34	29	48	39	45	41	70	50	30	64
Castle Peak	332*	199*	57*	58*	105*	58*	64*	80*	90	139	64	47	35	63	49	48	78	91	71	106	65	70	128
Golden Beach	352	98	44	50	87	66	84	46	62	117	87	63	42	37	26	62	45	39	31	45	37	22	41
Kadoorie	290	130	109	68	120	114	160	98	117	118	101	87	48	45	37	40	52	37	29	48	31	28	52
Islands District																							
Cheung Chau Tung Wan	24	19	11	12	16	17	11	12	14	37	21	15	17	12	6	13	10	14	19	9	18	9	8
Hung Shing Yeh	5	3	3	5	6	2	5	4	4	6	4	6	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	6	5	4	4
Kwun Yam	32	21	6	10	11	9	7	5	10	13	9	10	9	8	5	9	8	12	12	9	8	7	7
Lo So Shing	3	2	4	2	5	2	3	2	3	4	3	5	7	3	3	4	5	4	6	6	4	3	3
Lower Cheung Sha	85	23	10	12	22	10	14	7	12	11	12	20	13	11	9	10	17	21	17	47	19	9	25
Pui O	36	16	10	10	17	10	15	9	10	16	30	24	12	14	13	22	51	60	24	29	34	19	22
Silver Mine Bay	481	123	39	50	67	42	50	14	34	52	22	43	45	31	28	38	39	51	59	119	141*	36	106
Tong Fuk	14	10	4	5	6	4	3	4	5	5	4	10	5	5	4	4	7	4	4	9	3	4	5
Upper Cheung Sha	8	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	4	7	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	7	3	4	7

Note:

* Beach not open for swimming that year

2019 Beach visitor number

Beach	Daily Average		Peak Day	Peak Month	Total
	Weekdays	Weekends & Public Holidays			
Southern District					
Big Wave Bay	170	527	1850	12120	69900
Chung Hom Kok	121	574	1800	10060	65495
Deep Water Bay	892	4932	15500	106450	537600
Hairpin	128	260	600	6740	41730
Middle Bay	135	249	490	6370	42165
Repulse Bay	10919	12733	23300	399500	2818510
Rocky Bay	---	---	---	---	---
Shek O	1939	6434	26000	177000	830100
South Bay	75	335	700	6950	38900
St. Stephen's	229	372	800	13800	67400
Stanley Main	633	2573	14800	66700	308260
Turtle Cove	48	248	500	4760	27560
Sai Kung District					
Clear Water Bay First	168	603	1960	15270	75580
Clear Water Bay Second	2312	3547	24000	199400	664040
Hap Mun Bay	243	607	1850	20806	87596
Kiu Tsui	270	373	790	13900	73132
Silverstrand	155	725	3640	20730	82995
Trio	76	220	690	6840	29900
Tsuen Wan District					
Anglers'	134	534	980	9250	64490
Approach	71	139	450	4620	22740
Casam	42	70	250	2520	12570
Gemini	16	70	270	1260	8250
Hoi Mei Wan	31	172	580	3140	18690
Lido	439	961	11900	27950	148840
Ma Wan Tung Wan	431	1376	3820	35910	180160
Ting Kau	100	217	750	5720	33755
Tuen Mun District					
Butterfly	740	1181	2100	31070	216100
Cafeteria New	899	1651	3550	62900	279680
Cafeteria Old	960	1437	2170	41530	272880
Castle Peak	462	1265	1900	22960	176690
Golden	1832	4806	16500	103600	683750
Kadoorie	768	778	1400	31250	188880
Islands District					
Cheung Chau Tung Wan	466	2137	5150	45920	246250
Hung Shing Yeh	661	985	2090	37770	187570
Kwun Yam	142	648	1600	15440	74670
Lo So Shing	187	269	450	9040	52230
Lower Cheung Sha	366	1285	2450	31300	162300
Pui O	1110	2353	4870	82240	370160
Silver Mine Bay	205	984	4450	17890	111825
Tong Fuk	344	531	1450	26190	98990
Upper Cheung Sha	491	665	1410	27880	134080

Note: Information provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Physicochemical water quality data for gazetted beaches, 2019

Beach Name	pH	Salinity (psu) ¹	Turbidity (NTU) ²	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	(% Saturation)
Southern District						
Big Wave Bay Beach	8.24 (7.99 - 8.47)	28.1 (18.2 - 33.3)	7.36 (0.79 - 129.00)	26.6 (20.3 - 30.2)	6.4 (3.0 - 9.1)	92 (33 - 127)
Chung Hom Kok Beach	8.27 (8.09 - 8.63)	28.8 (3.2 - 33.5)	3.84 (1.18 - 12.70)	26.9 (20.1 - 31.3)	6.6 (5.2 - 8.6)	95 (79 - 124)
Deep Water Bay Beach	8.24 (7.94 - 8.63)	28.4 (18.1 - 33.4)	7.46 (1.19 - 42.50)	26.9 (20.5 - 31.0)	6.3 (4.3 - 8.0)	92 (67 - 108)
Hairpin Beach *	8.31 (8.14 - 8.81)	29.4 (20.6 - 33.4)	2.83 (0.31 - 17.10)	27.1 (20.8 - 32.5)	6.8 (4.8 - 9.2)	98 (73 - 128)
Middle Bay Beach	8.28 (8.14 - 8.65)	29.2 (21.8 - 33.4)	4.13 (1.19 - 9.62)	26.7 (20.5 - 31.6)	6.6 (5.4 - 9.1)	96 (78 - 130)
Repulse Bay Beach	8.29 (8.16 - 8.72)	29.9 (21.8 - 33.5)	4.70 (1.13 - 13.80)	26.7 (20.3 - 30.8)	6.6 (5.2 - 8.6)	95 (79 - 115)
Rocky Bay Beach *	8.21 (8.02 - 8.36)	29.6 (19.7 - 33.1)	6.04 (0.98 - 26.80)	26.2 (20.3 - 30.0)	6.5 (4.7 - 9.2)	94 (66 - 129)
Shek O Beach	8.27 (8.09 - 8.49)	30.5 (23.0 - 33.6)	4.30 (1.11 - 15.50)	26.6 (20.4 - 30.5)	6.4 (4.6 - 8.8)	92 (68 - 119)
South Bay Beach	8.28 (8.06 - 8.64)	29.6 (22.0 - 33.6)	2.80 (0.78 - 9.08)	27.0 (20.1 - 31.5)	6.4 (4.7 - 8.6)	94 (71 - 121)
St. Stephen's Beach	8.25 (8.09 - 8.62)	29.7 (20.9 - 33.6)	2.65 (0.83 - 5.33)	26.8 (20.1 - 29.8)	6.4 (4.4 - 8.2)	94 (65 - 112)
Stanley Main Beach	8.30 (8.14 - 8.73)	29.5 (20.4 - 33.3)	3.19 (1.12 - 11.30)	27.1 (20.7 - 31.8)	6.6 (5.4 - 8.7)	97 (81 - 122)
Turtle Cove Beach	8.30 (8.18 - 8.69)	28.6 (8.9 - 33.4)	6.11 (1.33 - 40.20)	27.1 (20.0 - 32.0)	6.6 (5.0 - 8.9)	95 (75 - 125)

Sai Kung District

Clear Water Bay First Beach	8.30 (8.17 - 8.50)	29.2 (19.2 - 33.1)	6.00 (1.15 - 33.60)	27.1 (19.9 - 32.0)	6.3 (4.2 - 8.6)	92 (66 - 119)
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	8.29 (8.13 - 8.48)	29.8 (20.5 - 33.1)	6.65 (1.19 - 27.60)	27.2 (19.8 - 31.8)	6.2 (4.4 - 8.5)	90 (66 - 117)
Hap Mun Bay Beach	8.30 (8.16 - 8.53)	30.5 (25.0 - 33.2)	3.49 (0.74 - 17.10)	27.6 (19.3 - 33.1)	6.2 (4.4 - 8.1)	92 (69 - 116)
Kiu Tsui Beach	8.26 (8.05 - 8.53)	30.1 (23.9 - 33.1)	3.18 (0.51 - 13.90)	27.4 (19.2 - 32.6)	6.1 (4.2 - 7.5)	90 (66 - 104)
Silverstrand Beach	8.30 (8.13 - 8.52)	28.6 (21.9 - 32.4)	3.97 (0.89 - 19.10)	27.0 (18.8 - 31.7)	6.4 (3.8 - 8.6)	92 (58 - 115)
Trio Beach	8.26 (8.13 - 8.50)	29.1 (21.9 - 32.8)	2.97 (0.79 - 10.80)	27.8 (21.0 - 32.5)	6.3 (4.6 - 7.6)	92 (71 - 113)

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers' Beach	8.17 (8.00 - 8.39)	27.0 (13.7 - 32.2)	3.97 (0.94 - 9.28)	26.5 (20.6 - 30.6)	6.3 (4.3 - 9.5)	90 (64 - 130)
Approach Beach	8.18 (8.00 - 8.48)	25.3 (14.6 - 31.6)	5.17 (1.18 - 26.90)	26.7 (20.4 - 30.0)	6.5 (4.7 - 8.2)	91 (68 - 117)
Casam Beach	8.16 (7.99 - 8.36)	25.4 (16.3 - 31.6)	3.54 (0.75 - 11.20)	26.8 (20.7 - 30.3)	6.3 (4.5 - 8.4)	90 (65 - 118)
Gemini Beaches *	8.14 (7.97 - 8.41)	26.4 (15.2 - 32.2)	3.35 (0.99 - 8.92)	26.6 (20.3 - 30.8)	6.3 (4.3 - 8.5)	88 (67 - 115)
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	8.13 (7.97 - 8.37)	25.2 (16.4 - 31.4)	3.32 (0.99 - 8.69)	26.9 (20.6 - 30.8)	6.2 (4.3 - 9.6)	88 (62 - 130)
Lido Beach	8.15 (8.01 - 8.35)	25.3 (16.0 - 31.7)	4.22 (0.75 - 12.50)	26.8 (20.4 - 29.8)	6.1 (4.3 - 8.2)	86 (61 - 117)
Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach	8.13 (7.93 - 8.32)	27.2 (19.1 - 31.4)	6.23 (1.69 - 34.20)	26.9 (20.2 - 30.2)	6.0 (4.3 - 7.7)	86 (65 - 108)
Ting Kau Beach	8.17 (8.02 - 8.42)	24.8 (16.1 - 31.7)	4.32 (1.06 - 23.20)	26.9 (20.7 - 30.5)	6.4 (4.5 - 9.7)	90 (64 - 130)

Tuen Mun District

Butterfly Beach	8.13 (7.96 - 8.39)	22.6 (9.4 - 29.6)	9.59 (2.56 - 48.70)	27.5 (20.7 - 32.2)	6.2 (4.3 - 9.6)	89 (64 - 125)
Cafeteria New Beach	8.15 (7.94 - 8.42)	22.0 (9.0 - 30.1)	8.00 (1.81 - 18.70)	27.3 (20.3 - 32.0)	6.3 (4.7 - 9.5)	90 (70 - 126)
Cafeteria Old Beach	8.14 (7.95 - 8.45)	21.7 (8.3 - 29.6)	7.60 (1.61 - 35.30)	27.4 (20.3 - 32.2)	6.3 (4.3 - 9.0)	88 (63 - 119)
Castle Peak Beach	8.18 (7.98 - 8.54)	21.5 (7.9 - 29.6)	5.08 (1.83 - 13.30)	27.5 (21.2 - 32.1)	6.6 (4.8 - 9.2)	94 (70 - 122)
Golden Beach	8.13 (7.97 - 8.44)	22.4 (9.3 - 30.1)	8.28 (1.72 - 22.40)	27.3 (20.1 - 32.1)	6.4 (4.9 - 9.7)	91 (70 - 130)
Kadoorie Beach	8.16 (8.01 - 8.57)	21.8 (8.4 - 29.6)	6.11 (1.31 - 25.40)	27.4 (20.4 - 31.5)	6.3 (4.8 - 8.3)	90 (70 - 111)

Islands District

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	8.22 (8.04 - 8.46)	27.5 (21.4 - 31.8)	3.14 (1.22 - 9.70)	27.1 (18.9 - 30.6)	6.5 (4.7 - 8.2)	93 (68 - 124)
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	8.27 (8.10 - 8.66)	28.5 (21.2 - 33.5)	6.20 (1.32 - 22.60)	27.3 (20.8 - 30.7)	6.3 (4.4 - 9.2)	91 (62 - 130)
Kwun Yam Beach	8.21 (8.01 - 8.58)	27.0 (20.2 - 31.8)	3.04 (1.15 - 7.78)	27.0 (18.7 - 30.5)	6.4 (4.4 - 10.0)	91 (63 - 129)
Lo So Shing Beach	8.23 (8.09 - 8.54)	29.3 (22.0 - 33.5)	4.10 (1.43 - 9.54)	27.2 (21.1 - 30.9)	6.5 (5.2 - 8.4)	93 (75 - 122)
Lower Cheung Sha Beach	8.27 (8.12 - 8.57)	27.1 (16.3 - 32.2)	11.25 (2.84 - 35.70)	27.7 (21.8 - 31.5)	6.2 (4.7 - 7.7)	90 (67 - 114)
Pui O Beach	8.27 (8.11 - 8.59)	26.7 (16.6 - 32.5)	16.05 (3.16 - 54.90)	28.4 (22.1 - 32.7)	6.2 (4.6 - 7.8)	90 (73 - 114)
Silver Mine Bay Beach	8.17 (7.93 - 8.60)	22.1 (5.7 - 31.1)	12.16 (2.76 - 73.40)	27.8 (21.2 - 31.6)	6.6 (4.2 - 8.6)	94 (64 - 123)
Tong Fuk Beach	8.28 (8.17 - 8.53)	27.4 (16.9 - 32.1)	8.23 (2.64 - 22.90)	27.5 (21.6 - 31.7)	6.3 (4.8 - 7.7)	92 (70 - 111)
Upper Cheung Sha Beach	8.28 (8.16 - 8.56)	27.4 (17.1 - 32.2)	9.72 (1.54 - 44.70)	27.5 (21.2 - 31.7)	6.3 (4.8 - 8.4)	91 (69 - 120)

Note: Data presented are arithmetic means; figures in brackets are ranges.

Footnote:

1. Practical Salinity Unit
2. Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

*Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)