

COVID Inclusions

- A. Expanded Learning Recognition Credits and amended Certificate Endorsement thresholds (LRC+)
- B. Pre-approved Derived Grades
- C. Unexpected Event Grades

Principles

NZQA and the Ministry of Education have determined the criteria for where it may be appropriate to apply the expanded Learning Recognition Credits (LRC+) changes and amended Certificate Endorsement thresholds beyond the Auckland region.

This additional support aims to:

1. preserve the integrity of NCEA and University Entrance
2. help ensure students have a fair opportunity to achieve NCEA and be awarded a Certificate Endorsement in 2020
3. recognise the additional disruption to teaching, learning and assessment from COVID-19, following the 13 days of classroom time lost due to the Alert Level 3 Lockdown in August 2020.

A. Eligibility for COVID Inclusion for expanded Learning Recognition Credits changes and amended Certificate Endorsement thresholds (LRC+)

Students attending Auckland Schools

Students attending school in Auckland at the time of the Level 3 August Lockdown are eligible to these entitlements for the remainder of 2020. No action is required from the Auckland schools affected. However, some students may also be eligible for a pre-approved Derived Grade as detailed below.

Students outside Auckland

Students attending school outside Auckland can access LRC+ where they have experienced a significant disruption of an equivalent extent as that experienced by students in Auckland. This can be for a whole school, a group, or individual students, with or without a physical school closure.

Definition of a disruption to an “equivalent extent” for students outside Auckland

In the period between 12 August and 1 November:

- i. **face-to-face schooling was disrupted for 10+ school days** for affected student(s).
- ii. schools were **unable to maintain continuity of teaching and learning** for affected students where these students were unable to:
 - regularly attend, **or**
 - continue work on required assessment activities.

Categories for LRC+ Inclusion

1. A **school** outside the Auckland zone that suffered a **disruption of an equivalent extent to Auckland schools**, as defined above, **or**
2. A **student** outside Auckland who suffered a **disruption to an equivalent extent to that experienced by students in Auckland** as defined above or for the following reasons:
 - a. they were in self isolation following Ministry of Health¹ guidelines or public health orders, **or**
 - b. they had a relevant medical condition or compromised immunity as per Ministry of Health guidelines².
3. A **student** who lives within the Auckland Lockdown zone but was enrolled in schooling outside of Auckland, **and**
 - a. could not make the trip to school outside the zone, **and** who suffered a **disruption to an equivalent extent as that experienced by students in Auckland** as defined above.

¹ MoH guidance on medical conditions, compromised immunity, and those at risk can be found at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-higher-risk-people>.

² Current MoE advice to schools (<https://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-for-schoolskura/guidance-for-schools-for-alert-levels-1-4/>) advises that children vulnerable to the illness may choose to stay at home at Alert Level 2. For the purpose of these criteria, this vulnerability has been defined by the MoH guidance.

To maximise the benefits accruing from the LRC+ and amended certificate endorsement inclusions, all students should sit their end of year examinations as planned, where possible.

B. COVID Inclusion for pre-approval of Derived Grades for examinations held under Alert Level 2 or higher

This Inclusion applies only to examinations held under Alert Level 2 or 3. If the examinations are being held under Alert Level 1, students must sit their examination, as this COVID Inclusion will not apply.

Applications can cover the period from 1 October until the end of the exam period on December 9.

Categories for Derived Grade Preapproval

1. An application for a Derived Grade can be made for a student who will be **unable to sit an external exam or whose performance has been impaired** at any time from 1 October because
 - a. their school or examination centre was operating **under Alert Level 2 or higher, and** they have a relevant medical condition or compromised immunity as per Ministry of Health guidelines³, **or**
 - b. they are in self isolation following Ministry of Health⁴ guidelines or public health orders.

The student will be awarded the better of:

- the grade from their examination performance, or
- the grade derived from school-based assessment of the external standards, submitted by the school in its data file.

A student may also be entitled to expanded Learning Recognition Credits (LRC+) if they have suffered a **disruption of an equivalent extent as students in Auckland** as defined above.

Please contact your School Relationship Manager if you need further clarification or information.

³ Current MoE advice to schools (<https://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-for-schoolskura/guidance-for-schools-for-alert-levels-1-4/>) advises that children vulnerable to the illness may choose to stay at home at Alert Level 2. For the purpose of these criteria, this vulnerability has been defined by the MoH guidance.

⁴ MoH guidance on medical conditions, compromised immunity, and those at risk can be found at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-higher-risk-people>.

C. COVID Inclusion for an Unexpected Event Grade (outside Level 3 Lockdown)

This inclusion applies only to small groups of students affected by COVID-19 disruptions in the period after 1 November.

A student may also be entitled to expanded Learning Recognition Credits (LRC+) if, they suffered a **disruption to an equivalent extent as students in Auckland**.

Affected students will be awarded the better of:

- the grade from their examination performance, or
- the grade derived from school-based assessment of the external standards, submitted by the school in its data file.

Note: If the examination centre is in a region operating under Alert Level 4, no examinations will be held.

if you need further information, please contact your School Relationship Manager.

Categories for Unexpected Event Grades

1. NZQA may invoke the Unexpected Event Grade process for small groups of students in schools affected by disruptions from COVID-19 in the period after 1 November where their **face-to-face schooling has been disrupted for 10+ school days**, where:
 - a. the student(s) are unable to sit their examinations following Ministry of Education or Ministry of Health⁵ guidelines or public health orders, **or**
 - b. the student(s) are in self isolation following Ministry of Health⁶ guidelines or public health orders.

Process for making applications for individual students who meet the Covid Inclusion categories

- The application process will be available after 22 October
- Applications are made through the link within the Derived Grade section of your provider login
- By submitting an application, you are attesting that the information you are providing is accurate and in accordance with the specified categories.

If your whole student cohort is affected, please contact your School Relationship Manager.

Steps

1. After logging in, go to Covid Inclusion (found with the Derived Grade applications)
2. Search for a student by name or NSN
3. Select the category of the application: LRC+, Pre-approved Derived Grades, UEG (outside Level 3 Lockdown). **Note:** Some students may be entitled to an Inclusion in more than one category

⁵ MoH guidance on medical conditions, compromised immunity, and those at risk can be found at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-higher-risk-people>.

⁶ MoH guidance on medical conditions, compromised immunity, and those at risk can be found at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-higher-risk-people>.

4. Use the dropdowns to provide the reason for the application
5. For exceptional requests select the "Other" category field and include a brief reason.

You may be asked to provide additional information to help NZQA make a fair decision.

You can see if an application is approved, still pending, or declined by checking the **Covid Inclusion Report** on your Provider Login.