



**Kia Ora tātou,**

2022 is here and we are here to help ensure businesses have all the resources needed to kick start the year off.

All members are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of Otara Business Association at Otara Music & Arts Centre (OMAC), 46 Fair Mall Otara on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start.

With Omicron virus spreading its way around Auckland, businesses and workers need to be prepared to learn and adapt to find the best ways to maintain physical distancing, and good hygiene and cleaning practices.

We've compiled some information we hope will be helpful below, but we know your needs will be particular to your business. We are here to help so please

Town Centre Manager Rana Judge is available on 027 274 6401 and [manager@obaotara.org.nz](mailto:manager@obaotara.org.nz) and is always happy to hear from you.



### **Boosters shot are now available**

From, 5 January, anyone aged 18 and over is now eligible to get a booster dose from a walk-in vaccination centre, if it has been at least 4 months since their second dose.

Eligible people can also book a booster dose by calling 0800 28 29 26, or by making an appointment directly with their GP, iwi health provider, or community pharmacies that operate their own booking systems offering the vaccine.

Online bookings for booster doses will be available from 17 January through [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.nz)

Find your nearest walk-in vaccination centre here:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/>

Booster doses are now available if it's been 4 months since your last dose and you are aged 18 and over. You can walk in to vaccination centres now, or call 0800 28 29 26 to book an appointment near you. You will also be able to book

Here's what you need to know about boosters:

- Data is emerging that shows a booster dose of Pfizer provides better protection against the Omicron variant than the two-dose course alone.
- Boosters offer greater protection against transmission of COVID-19 and reduces the chance of more mild infections as well.
- Boosters use the same Pfizer vaccine you received in your first two doses.
- Side effects of boosters are similar to the first two doses. They are generally mild and don't last long. They include pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, headache, nausea, and feeling tired or fatigued.
- You do not currently need a booster to get My Vaccine Pass.
- At this time boosters have only been approved to those aged 18 and over.
- Boosters are not mandatory. Some workers covered by the Mandatory Vaccinations Order will need to have booster doses – this will be confirmed later this month.

You can find more information about booster doses on our website here:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/>

## Clean and Disinfect your Store

It's always smart to maintain a clean workspace, but it's especially important now. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least once a day—and much more frequently in high-traffic areas, such as checkout counters or office kitchen counters and break areas.

Be sure to clean doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, tables, desks, keyboards, remote controls, elevator buttons, toilets (including handles), faucets, sinks, cash registers/point of sale (POS) displays, business equipment, and phones.

Encourage workers to clean their personal phones, too, as well as any other equipment they bring from home into the workplace.

Of course, all of these cleaning and disinfecting supplies can be dangerous if not used properly. Be sure to provide guidelines for using them safely and provide the proper equipment—such as gloves and masks—and adequate ventilation to limit chemical exposure. Better yet, hire professional cleaners who already have safety systems in place.

# What financial support can I get?

New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

## Financial support for businesses

### COVID-19 Temporary loss carry-back scheme

A temporary loss carry-back scheme has been introduced to support customers in the current uncertain economic environment.

Businesses expecting to make a loss in either the 2020 year or the 2021 year can use that loss to offset profits they made the year before. In other words, they can carry the loss back one year to the preceding income year. This can be done before the loss year return is filed.

You must let us know if you are going to use the loss carry-back scheme. You can do this in the 'More' section of your income tax account in myIR.

A loss carry back can be claimed in your income tax return when you file it or by amending the return if filed. Refunds will be processed a lot faster if you use myIR. Please ensure that you have a bank account loaded against the INC tax type for refunds.

If you do not elect to carry your loss back, it will still be available to carry forward as normal. If you elect to carry back only part of the loss now, you can carry back the remainder any time later in the year up until your return is due. Any balance remaining can be carried forward.

**Eligibility criteria:** You are not eligible if you receive an automatically

- salary or wages
- NZ Superannuation
- schedular payments
- income-tested benefits
- interest or dividends
- taxable Māori authority distributions
- benefits under an employee share scheme.

You need to have:

- incurred, or expect to incur a loss in the 2020 or the 2021 tax year
- made a profit in the year before the loss was made.

You are not eligible to carry-back a loss if it is from residential rental property deductions. Multi-rate portfolio investment entities are not eligible.

Companies need to also meet these conditions to be eligible.

- The company has maintained 49% common ownership throughout the loss year and preceding year.
- If the company is a member of a group of companies, the group has retained 66% common ownership throughout the loss year and preceding year.
- You have a sufficient imputation credit account balance to cover any refund.

If a company has an insufficient imputation credit account (ICA) balance, the temporary loss carry back refund cannot be paid. The credit will remain on the companies account to either offset an income tax bill, or refund when there is a sufficient ICA balance.

## COVID-19 Small Business Cashflow Scheme (SBCS)

The Small Business Cashflow Scheme (SBCS) was introduced to support small to medium businesses and organisations struggling with a loss of actual revenue due to COVID-19. Applications are open until 31 December 2023.

Work and Income will administer the payments and repayments of this scheme. If your business or organisation is eligible and you submit an application through myIR, you may be entitled to a loan.

Checkout the eligibility criteria here: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/sbcs/eligibility>

BDO is delighted to see that an Auckland-specific business support package has been made available to organisations affected by COVID-19. Registrations for the package are now open. For information about business eligibility and the process for business applications for Activate Tāmaki Makaurau (including the eligible service categories), please go to the [Activate Tāmaki Makaurau website](#).

BDO Auckland is registered to provide business advice and implementation support with Activate Tāmaki Makaurau. For more, please contact your local [BDO representative](#).

The [\\$60 million package](#) is being administered by Auckland Unlimited with support from MBIE. BDO encourages as many of you as possible that would like to access some support to register.

The new package will include three key areas of support that businesses can access:

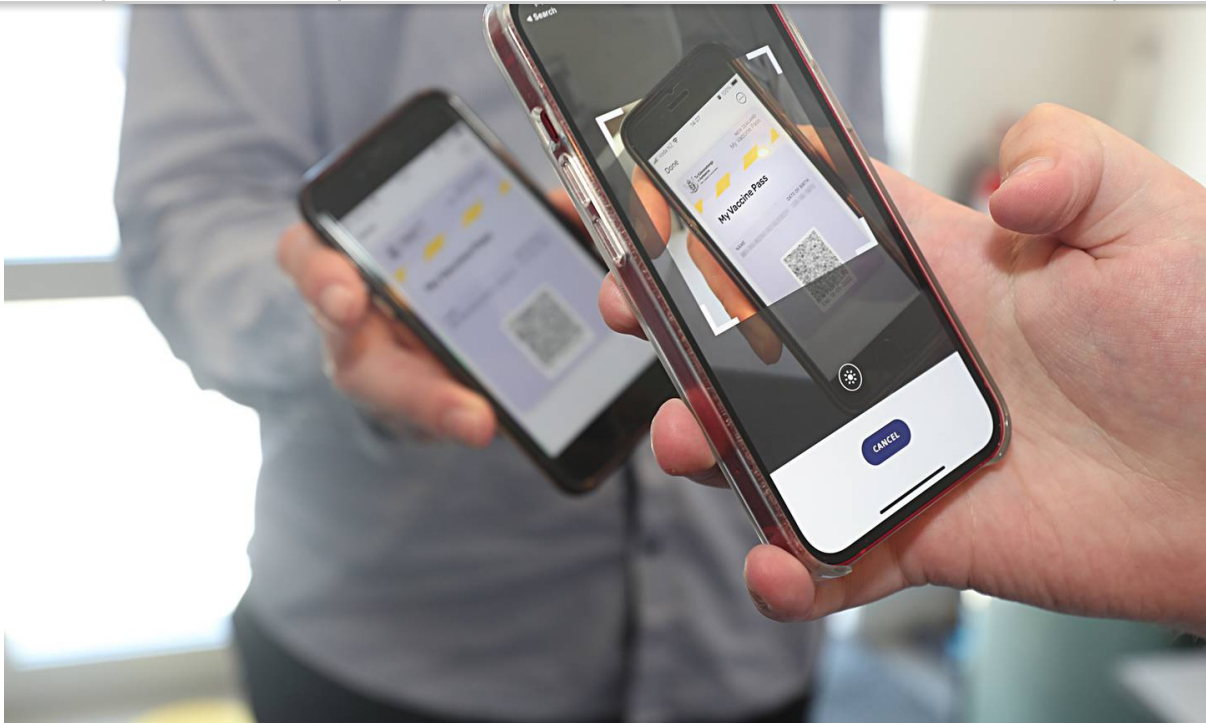
- Business advisory support
- Implementation grant
- Health and wellbeing support

There will be up to \$3,000 for business advisory support and up to \$4,000 for implementation support.

There are also business community resources available on how to operate under the COVID-19 Protection Framework, vaccinations and returning to work safely.

Please note that the current Regional Business Partner (RPB) offering has now been suspended so that Auckland Unlimited can focus on this new package.

These past few months have been for businesses across Auckland so please do register your interest for [accessing the support here](#). They look forward to helping businesses across Auckland recover and thrive as we move to the next phase of New Zealand's COVID-19 response.



## Checking My Vaccine Passes

Businesses operating under My Vaccine Pass rules must check customers' passes. We recommend at or near the point of entry, or as soon as possible after entry (for example, if there is only one staff member, this might be at the counter).

- Businesses who choose to require the My Vaccine Pass must sight Passes, and must verify a reasonable number using a verifier app.
- Some businesses are prohibited from asking for My Vaccine Passes. These include supermarkets, pharmacies, health and disability services, specified social services, food banks, petrol stations and public transport (excluding air-travel).
- It is up to customers to present only their own My Vaccine Pass. Businesses are not required to check ID, but they may request it.
- Businesses are not required to check a customer's pass if they reasonably consider that the customer is a child under the age of 12 years 3 months.
- The free NZ Pass Verifier app is available now from the Apple and Google Play app stores for downloading. The app is used to verify digital or printed My Vaccine Passes, by scanning the QR code on the Pass.
- The Verifier app can be downloaded onto a smart phone or tablet. [NZ Pass Verifier](#) — Ministry of Health

Businesses must display posters or signage indicating to customers if entry is contingent on having a My Vaccine Pass. These can be downloaded from the COVID-19 website.

### [Posters for businesses and organisations](#) — COVID-19

Customers must show a My Vaccine Pass before they can enter business premises that require them, this includes showing it for verification if asked.

It is recommended businesses provide staff with wording for customers who do not wish to comply with requirements, so staff are best able to de-escalate a situation. Make it clear when workers should walk away or decide not to continue to engage with a person. Consideration should also be given to what kind of behaviour might mean calling the Police.

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## Businesses of the Month



First shoutout goes to **Local Doctors Otago**. Their efforts in helping the community out have been truly exceptional. The constant support they provide to the South Auckland community struggling in these times is what makes the community strong. We thank you for providing the community with vaccination rally's and ensuring their safety with proper health support. A special acknowledgement goes to their team and their efforts of actively updating the community through social media channels and educating them on queries related to Covid and vaccinations.

Visit them here: [Local Doctors Otago](#)

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Another shoutout goes to Diva Nails. They have been providing Otara beauty enthusiasts a creative space and hub to ensure their needs are looked after locally. Female community members are attracted to the town centre because of Diva Nail Salon's effort to connect with them through their lively social media posts and provide them with trendy designs that are rare to find elsewhere. We want to thank Diva Nails for uplifting the community of Otara through digital marketing and engaging with them to support local businesses.

Visit them here: [Diva Nails](#)

**If you would like your business to be featured in the next newsletter, send us your creative content by clicking the link below:**

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