

# HEALTH BEAT

## DON'T WAIT BOOK TODAY!

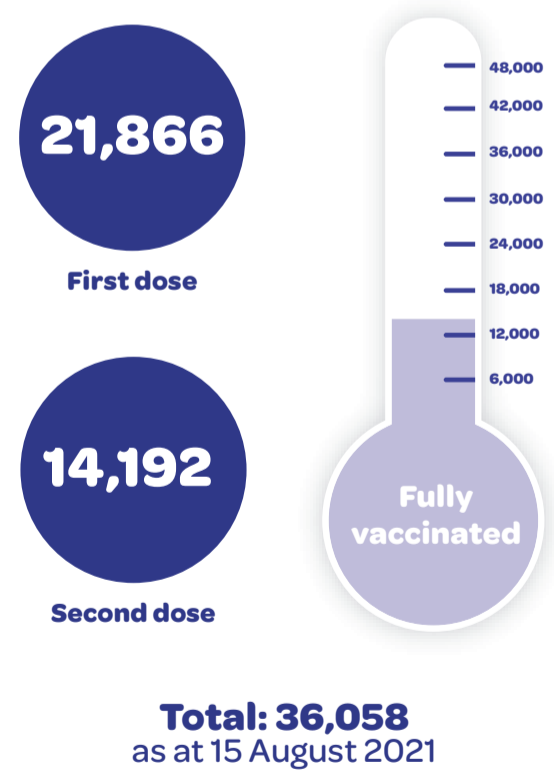
Everyone aged **40 and over** can now book their COVID-19 vaccinations at **BookMyVaccine.nz**, or by calling 0800 28 29 26.

Appointments now available 7 days a week!

## Vaccine bookings update

Age group	Date bookings open
50+	Friday 13 August
40+	Wednesday 18 August
30+	Wednesday 25 August
All ages	Wednesday 1 September

## South Canterbury DHB: COVID-19 Vaccine Update



For general information about the COVID-19 vaccine, or the national rollout, please visit the Unite Against COVID-19 website.

[www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)

## Local General Practice Doing Its Bit

Temuka Family Practice's (TFP) Katy Burton and Michelle Amos believe they are doing their "little" bit in helping keep both their patients and NZ safe from COVID-19.

Since late July, every Wednesday, both Katy and Michelle have been giving out doses of the Pfizer vaccine to around 100 patients from their practice each week.

"It's a drop in the ocean, but every dose we give not only helps to keep our patients, but New Zealand, safe," Dr Katy Burton adds.

"We are only vaccinating our own registered patients as we believe it is in their best interests," nurse practitioner intern Michelle explains.

**"We know our patients really well and they trust us to provide them with their healthcare."**

The plan is to work through all TFP's 3,000 or so registered patients – by the end of the year.

The Temuka Family Practice decided to get on board with COVID-19 vaccinations after Michelle spent some time helping give out vaccines at the Woolcombe Street COVID-19 Vaccination Centre.

"I approached Katy and we decided it would be in the best interest of our patients if we administered COVID-19 vaccinations at our own practice," Michelle explains.

They admit that it took a bit of set-up and paperwork – and 6-8 weeks of planning and training – before they could start vaccinating. But now things are underway, they say it is going smoothly.

"The rotation of vaccinating and then ensuring people wait for at least 20 minutes after their dose is going well," Katy says. "It's running like a well-oiled machine now and we have it all down to a fine art."

## Making It Easy!

A key part to the success of getting the South Canterbury community vaccinated against COVID-19 will be helped by some general practices and pharmacies in the region helping with the roll out of vaccinations.

Playing a vital role in assisting local general practices get on board is Maree Rowley, whose job is to make their journey as smooth and easy as possible.

As the SCDHB's primary care lead for the COVID-19 vaccination programme, Maree is kept busy liaising with those general practices around the region who are keen to be part of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Earlier in the year, SCDHB made contact with all the general practices to gauge if they were interested carrying out COVID-19 vaccinations.

Maree's role involves answering all their questions about the rollout and COVID-19 vaccine, helping with logistics and the collateral required, as well as disseminating and localising the huge amount of COVID-19 information that's provided from the Ministry of Health.



Michelle and Katy

Michelle says the slowest part of the process is drawing up the vaccine but she adds that even this is not too much of a problem.

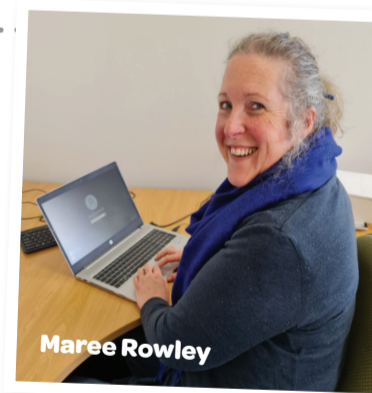
"We also have had really good service from the SCDHB ensuring we have all the information we need and we have good access to consumables – such as needles and vaccine," Michelle adds.

They believe the patients at Temuka Family Practice are both happy and comforted by the fact their own doctors are providing COVID-19 vaccinations.

**"We've had really good uptake by our patients to getting their COVID-19 vaccine here. They seem very happy that they can get it from people they know and trust."**

Michelle and Katy described the positive feeling on display when patients are waiting around after having had their COVID-19 vaccine.

"They sit around and chat with each other – the mood is so warm and jovial as people seem happy that they are protected."



Maree Rowley

"It's about ensuring they have got everything they need, when they need it," Maree explains.

She says the biggest challenge of her job is time.

"Everything is coming at pace – all the time. A key part of my role is to ensure that general practices are kept well informed without inundating them."

Maree says she is mindful of the fact that COVID-19 vaccinations are only part of the general practice's workload.

**"I'm here to ensure that this important addition to their business-as-usual workload is made as easy as possible."**



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