

HEALTH BEAT

Everyone aged 60 and over can now book their COVID-19 Vaccination at BookMyVaccine.nz

COVID-19 vaccinations for rural communities

SCDHB's rural mobile clinics are an important component of our overall COVID-19 vaccine rollout programme to all our community.

And a vital component of their ongoing success is the unflappable Jane-Anne McIlraith.

Jane-Anne – or JA as everyone knows her – is the key link between the region's rural communities, and when and where we have our mobile clinics running in the various rural towns around South Canterbury.

As the SCDHB's COVID-19 rural lead, JA plays a crucial part in locating the venues for our rural clinics, liaising with community leaders, planning their layouts and structures – as well as helping set up and pack down every one of these clinics.

Already the SCDHB COVID-19 mobile rural vaccination team has held a number of clinics around the South Canterbury region – in Waimate, Twizel, Fairlie, Pleasant Point, Geraldine and Temuka.

JA's background as a former police officer in the region, and latterly as a co-ordinator for the South Canterbury Rural Support Trust, makes her an ideal candidate to help coordinate the running of SCDHB's rural COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

"I love people so working alongside a variety of people is great," she says. "Also working in the rural towns and communities is a real plus."

JA has high praise for the various rural communities in the way they have reacted to helping out with the vaccine rollout.

"They have been tremendous, our first clinic 'roll out' was in Waimate and they truly set the standard for the rest of South Canterbury," JA says. "Since then, we have been in Twizel, Fairlie, Pleasant Point, Geraldine and Temuka. Our clinics locations include rugby club rooms, school libraries (during school holidays), town halls and stadiums.

JA has been working as the Rural Lead for the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for about three months.

"Initially, I spent most of my time organising sites for the rural clinics. I also organise the logistics of stores and then pack a van and head out to the various locations," she explains. "The rural communities have been very willing to help out."

Because her hours vary – depending on the demands of the clinics, JA continues working with the Rural Support Trust as well. She reckons being part of a team that has a common goal and commitment to the community is great.

One of the biggest challenges she has faced, so far, was the flooding that hit the region in late May.

"We started our first clinic in the middle of a weather bomb," she says. "Meanwhile, as the clinics have rolled out through winter, its managing to keep halls warm and comfortable for people."

JA reckons the hiring of a diesel heater has saved the day here – along with lots of "non slip" mats.

"Maybe the biggest challenge is 'making great plans, that sometimes fly out the window in a nano second'... at the worst possible moment," JA laughs.

Overall, she believes the secret to the success of South Canterbury's rural clinic vaccine roll out is the team behind it.

"I believe everyone plays an important part in a clinic running successfully."

JA says from the planning and organising to the locations, to ensuring there is appropriate size and space, as well as accessibility and parking and, of course, IT compatible – as the clinics rely heavily on IT in order to run smoothly.

"We really have a great team of people and wonderful nurses who are kept on their toes immunising,"



South Canterbury DHB: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

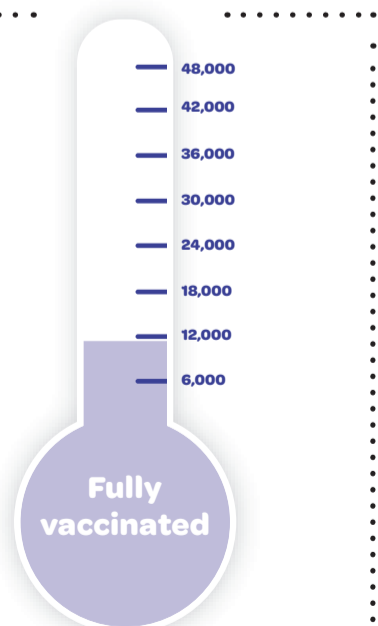


First dose



Second dose

Total: 29,298 as at the 1 August 2021



Book My Vaccine

Book your COVID-19 vaccination now, or register so we can let you know when it's time to reserve your spot.

[Book or register now](#) →



For general information about the COVID-19 vaccine, or the national rollout, please visit the [Unite Against COVID-19](https://UniteAgainstCOVID-19.org.nz) website.

www.covid19.govt.nz



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