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# WellSouth Update

**20 September 2022**

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## Kia ora koutou -

WellSouth Update is a regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy and other providers in Southland and Otago.

To subscribe or to provide feedback or submissions, please email [communications@wellsouth.org.nz](mailto:communications@wellsouth.org.nz) Thank you.

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## Join the WellSouth Board of Trustees

WellSouth is seeking a nurse representative and a community representative to serve as trustees on the board. The new trustees will join general medical practitioner, Māori, and pharmacy representative trustees.

The WellSouth Board is responsible for planning, setting, and monitoring the strategic outcomes required to ensure effective primary health service delivery across Otago and Southland. Both roles play a valuable role in working towards these outcomes.

Deadline for applications is 28 September. More information via links below.

[Nurse Representative](#)  
[Community Representative](#)

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## General Practice Survey - now monthly

During the thick of Covid we started a weekly survey to better understand the pressures on practices and what we could do to help.

With work returning to business as usual (not that 'usual' seems to be the right word) we are now changing the frequency of the surveys to monthly.

These surveys help us to understand the experiences of general practices and other primary care, so WellSouth can better support practices, providers and your patients.

Thank you all for taking the time complete the surveys and please continue to give us your input.

You can now expect to receive the short survey the first week of each month.

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## Vaccination Spring Fling Coming to You Soon!

The Southern COVID-19 vaccination programme has identified areas across the region with lower vaccination rates and will be organising a tour of events to support communities in those areas to get up to date with their vaccinations.

Throughout spring and early summer, the programme will be targeting areas with fewer opportunities to get vaccinated working with the community, local providers and its outreach team.

Clinics will be planned in areas with lower adult COVID-19 vaccine rates, but other vaccinations will also be available. These will vary by location based on clinic capabilities but may include paediatric COVID-19, MMR, influenza and HPV. The vaccines available at each clinic will be advertised once the details are confirmed.

More information very soon!

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## Check for expired vaccine stock

Please check your Vaccine Portal regarding any expired stock. If you have stock that has expired, this will need to be wasted. Please update the Portal for all Expired Doses; including those that may have been removed previously.

If you have any questions about how to check or waste stock in your portal, please contact Romilly Smith (Vaccine Logistics Coordinator, Te Whatu Ora) on (03) 4769915, ext: 55915 or 027 211 5565, or at [Romilly.Smith@southerndhb.govt.nz](mailto:Romilly.Smith@southerndhb.govt.nz)

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## Otago/Southland PMAANZ Upcoming Meetings

The next branch meeting for Practice Managers and Administrators Association of New Zealand (PMAANZ) is on **Tuesday October 18, 2022**. The committee would love to hear of issues troubling practices that could be aired to good effect in this forum.

The final meeting of the year is scheduled for **Tuesday November 15, 2022**. This meeting is traditionally social in nature and often based on a fun activity.

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## Our dietitians say 'thank you' for your referrals

Dietitians from both WellSouth and Te Whatu Ora Southern want to say thank you to GPs for IBS referrals - we hugely appreciate the effort that goes into these referrals.

If you are wondering where to find out how to make dietitians happy (we are simple souls) and gain some GPCME points, then you can catch up on [the presentation from Kyle Hendry and me on IBS given in June 2022](#):

The first-line advice resource will be reviewed and updated shortly. You can find the current [basic lifestyle changes outlined on the IBS pathway](#).

Both our services hope to have more developments in how we work with this patient group shortly, so watch this space.

Keep up the excellent Mahi!

[Helen Gibbs](#), Dietitian/Nutrition Development Advisor.

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## Smoke-Free Updates

Smokefree Coordinator Debby Newton is available to give updates to practice staff. These can include:

- The 2025 Action Plan and General Practice's important role in achieving 2025
- Vaping to stop smoking
- Referrals to stop smoking support
- Smokefree pregnancies – stop smoking incentive programmes
- Smoking, COVID & having a positive conversation about stopping smoking with patients

Certificate of attendance available.

Updates can be face-to-face or online.

Contact Debby to discuss at [debby.newton@southerndhb.govt.nz](mailto:debby.newton@southerndhb.govt.nz) or 024-685-4911

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## Update HealthPoint hours - Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Day

The government has announced a one-off public memorial day holiday on **26 September 2022** in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth 2. There is a new field on HealthPoint for this day which has been automatically set as **closed**.

Can you please update this field as required for each of your locations across your COVID **vaccination, testing, and RATS** for collection profiles. (if the location will be closed on this day you don't need to do anything). This is found in the **Hours** section for each location.

To edit this please sign in with your editing username.

1. Scroll to **Hours**
2. Click the **edit button** under the location you wish to update (or under the standard hours field if you only have one location)
3. Scroll down to **Public Holidays**
4. Click the drop box next to the date and select **Open**
5. If the hours are different to your normal hours – **add hours in 24hr clock**
6. Scroll to the bottom and **Save**
7. **This update will go live as soon as you click save**

Please don't hesitate to contact us by email [info@healthpoint.co.nz](mailto:info@healthpoint.co.nz) if you have any questions.

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