

HALTON RECORDING COVID VACCINES RECEIVED OUTSIDE ONTARIO

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Residents who obtained their COVID-19 vaccinations in a different province or country are now able to have their inoculations registered through Halton Public Health.

The local health authority recently launched an out-of-province vaccine reporting tool on its website — something that snowbirds have long been calling for.

Many of these residents received their COVID-19 vaccines while down south over the winter and have been waiting to have their shots counted as part of the overall tally for Halton and Ontario.

Last month, Canadian

Snowbird Association president Karen Huestis wrote to Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott, urging her ministry to allow residents to update their immunization records and register COVID-19 vaccinations that they received in the United States or abroad.

"Tens of thousands of snowbirds have or will soon be returning to Ontario fully vaccinated with a Health Canada-approved vaccine," she said in her letter. "Allowing these individuals to register their vaccinations with the province will ensure that your government has more accurate vaccination data which, in turn, will improve your government's ability to make decisions as we progress through the staged reopening framework."

Shortly after this, the provincial government announced that it had updated its COVax database with a mechanism to record vaccines received outside of Ontario. It was then up to individual health units to create their own process for gathering the information to ultimately be entered in the COVax provincial vaccine registry.

Now, Halton residents can visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines, click on "report an out-of-province vaccination" and enter the requested information.

Those who received both vaccine doses outside of Ontario will be able to download a receipt from the Ontario COVID-19 portal (covid19.ontariohealth.ca) after five business days, if the information entered is deter-



Andrew Mendler/Metroland

Snowbirds have been calling on Halton and the province to recognize their COVID-19 vaccines obtained in the United States or abroad.

mined to be valid.

Those who received one dose, either the first

or second, outside the province will be contacted by phone or email with

next steps and information on how to book additional doses, if required.



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