

TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES HENS AS URBAN PETS

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Halton Hills residents now have the option to keep hens as pets.

At its Sept. 6 meeting, town council approved a revision to the Responsible Pet Owner's By-law 1994-07 to allow for the keeping of hens per prescribed criteria.

"While I know passing this bylaw may ruffle some feathers, I have to believe that residents who get chickens will be responsible owners," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "This is new territory for us so we will be watching the program closely to ensure that it doesn't go fowl."

Some regulations



Metroland file photo
Hens can now be kept as pets in urban Halton Hills.

around keeping urban hens include a restriction to a maximum of four hens per lot — at least four months of age — kept in a

hen run at all times, with the exception from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., when they shall be kept in a locked hen coop.

The town gathered community input through surveys and open house, receiving support from a majority of the respondents.

"We have introduced regulations that aim at preventing the spread of infectious diseases by requiring hen owners to maintain hen coops and hen runs in a clean and sanitary condition and have them kept free of obnoxious odours or substances and vermin," said Manager of Enforcement Services Susie Spry.

"It is about keeping what is inside the coop in, and what is outside of the coop out."

BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTER NOW AVAILABLE

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A growing number of people can now get a new booster.

The bivalent COVID-19 booster dose is now available to those in a specific high-risk groups.

The shot can now be booked at www.halton.ca for residents who are:

- 70 years of age and older
- Health-care workers 18-years and older
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals aged 12 and over
- Pregnant individuals
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over
- Residents of a long-term-care home, retirement home, or elder care lodge and older adults living in other congregate set-

tings that provide assisted living and health services.

All residents 18 and older will be eligible for the booster dose starting Sept. 26.

The bivalent COVID-19 booster targets the original COVID-19 virus and the Omicron (BA.1) variant. This is the first vaccine to target a specific strain of the virus.

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region's medical officer of health, said residents are encouraged to wear masks in indoor and crowded settings.

"The Health Canada approved Moderna bivalent COVID-19 booster dose is a great way to gain additional protection against the COVID-19 Omicron variants, especially as we head into the colder months," said Meghani.

To receive the bivalent COVID-19 booster dose, eligible individuals must

have completed their primary series, usually two doses, of COVID-19 vaccine. It is recommended individuals receive the bivalent COVID-19 booster dose six months, or 168 days, after either completing their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including monovalent boosters, or having COVID-19 infection.

The availability of the bivalent COVID-19 booster is initially limited and appointments are based on provincial supply. All bivalent COVID-19 booster doses at Halton Region Community Clinics will be offered by appointment only (no walk-ins) starting Sept. 13.

To learn more about Halton Region's COVID-19 vaccine program, including eligibility for the bivalent booster dose and how to book an appointment, visit www.halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.

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