

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – May ‘23**

Dear Strathmere Lodge residents, family members, friends/responsible parties:

1. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

In late March, the province relaxed some of the COVID-19 protocols still required of long term care homes. Here are the main points now currently governing visiting Lodge residents:

1. There is no vaccination requirement (though vaccination is highly recommended);
2. There is no daily Rapid Antigen Testing for visitors (masks are still required, and visitors are required to sign in at the entrance area);
3. There is no limit as to who can visit, and how many can visit in a resident room at any one time (the privacy curtain must be drawn in shared resident rooms). Restrictions on visitor numbers may be implemented in an Outbreak situation;
4. We are asking family/visitors to maintain mask wearing at all times (covering mouth, nose and chin), and to refrain from food/drinks; and
5. Residents may leave Lodge premises, and are not required to isolate upon return, unless COVID infection is suspected/determined (restrictions on residents leaving the premises for social outings may be put into place in the event of an Outbreak situation).

The province continues to mandate COVID-19 protocols for provincial long term care homes.

The importance of not visiting when you feel unwell cannot be stressed enough (i.e., this will help to minimize the possibility of outbreaks).

Please ensure hand sanitizing before visiting a resident, and when leaving a resident’s room.

Please contact The Lodge with any questions regarding Visiting.

1. **Annual Quality Improvement Plan**



As required of all provincial long term care homes, hospitals and other health service providers annually, the Strathmere Lodge Annual Quality Improvement Plan (for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) has been submitted to **Health Quality Ontario** (the provincial body dedicated to reporting to the public about the quality of Ontario’s publicly funded health system) following approval by Middlesex County Council.

After reviewing comparative provincial data on long term care homes, The Lodge’s Quality Improvement Committee (comprising representation from residents, families, staff and managers) developed Quality Improvement Plan content, selecting **Use of Physical Restraints** and **Use of Antipsychotic Medication** as The Lodge’s two (2) Improvement focus areas for 2023-2024. While both physical restraints and antipsychotic medication have indicated uses (e.g., physical restraints to prevent resident falls, and antipsychotic medication to manage the symptoms of psychosis and dementia), we aim to ensure the appropriate use of both.

The Lodge’s Quality Improvement Plan is posted in the Reception area (copies available upon request). It is also discussed at Lodge Residents’ Council meetings, and shared with all staff.

Quality Improvement Plans for all applicable provincial organizations, including The Lodge, can be found on the provincial Health Quality Ontario website at: <https://qipnavigator.hqontario.ca/Resources/PostedQIPs.aspx>

1. **Lodge Improvements**

As part of adhering to our provincial long term care homes legislation, we are required to communicate improvements made to our care, services, programs, goods and accommodations. To that end, improvements made since our last newsletter include:

1. New resident patio furniture; and
2. Additional night shift staffing (via provincial government funding increase).
3. **Labelling of Residents’ Clothing**



To prevent missing clothing … This is a reminder that new clothing needs to be labelled with the resident’s name before a resident begins to wear it (this also includes items such as shoes/slippers and personal blankets/throws). Please ensure that you use the Clothing Bin near the main entrance to deposit clothing requiring labelling, after inventorying the clothing items on the form provided at the bin (further instructions are provided at the clothing bin).

For inquiries regarding missing clothing and the like, please contact John Fournier, Environmental Services Manager, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6244 (or, via email: jfournier@middlesex.ca).

1. **Labelling of Other Personal Resident Items**

Apart from clothes labelling noted above, residents/families are encouraged to label other personal resident effects (including new items brought to The Lodge from time-to-time), notably items that are more portable in nature, such as TV remote controls.

1. **In Conclusion ….**



Please let me know if you would like to see certain issues addressed in future newsletter editions (contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via

email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

Please share a copy of this newsletter with other family members and friends, or direct them to our [web page](http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care): <http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>.

Hardcopies of our newsletter are also maintained at our Public Information Board near Reception. Copies of older newsletter editions are compiled in binders at our Reception desk, and are available for your review.

**Brent Kerwin,** Administrator