

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

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

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

Since last month’s newsletter, there have been no changes to provincial COVID-19 protocols still in place for long term care homes. Here are the main points 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 indoors, 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 in conjunction with the Middlesex-London Health Unit;
4. We are asking family/visitors to maintain mask wearing at all times (covering mouth, nose and chin) while indoors, 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. **Ladies’ Auxiliary Strawberry Social**



The Lodges’ Ladies’ Auxiliary will be hosting a Strawberry Social on Wednesday, June 28th beginning at 6:15pm.

Jeremy Smith will be entertaining the residents, and the event will be held outdoors weather permitting.

Family and friends are welcome to join us!!!

And, speaking of resident entertainment, please note that “Acapella Connection” will be performing on Wednesday, June 14th beginning at 6:15pm in the Rose Room. Family and friends are welcome to join us.

For more information, please contact Marcy Welch, Recreation/Physiotherapy Manager, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6226 (or, via email: mwelch@middlesex.ca).

1. **Monthly lnvoices from Our Pharmacy Provider, CareRx**



For residents who are paying pharmacy charges for medication-related items not covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan, and who have a Lodge resident trust account with us, please note that pharmacy charges will not come out of resident trust accounts effective with the August Trust Account Statements sent to you by The Lodge.

Instead, residents/Powers of Attorney (POAs) will be receiving pharmacy invoices directly from CareRx, our pharmacy services provider, and will need to remit payment directly to CareRx.

For inquiries regarding trust accounts and this change regarding pharmacy invoices, please contact Augustine Caines, Office Supervisor, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6246 (or, via email: acaines@middlesex.ca).

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 building water softener system (incl. servicing resident bathing facilities).
2. **Resident Safety / Resident Outings**



Resident safety is paramount to us, and to that end, we want to ensure we can account for resident whereabouts at all times.

We ask residents and families to let staff know when residents are leaving the premises on an outing of any kind. Using the Sign-out Book maintained at the desk in each resident home area is an added way to make sure we know residents have left the premises.

Thank you for your on-ongoing assistance in keeping Lodge residents safe.

1. **Resident/Family Room Bookings for Family Gatherings**



Residents/families are welcome to reserve our Family Dining Room (main floor) or our Conference Room (2nd floor) for family get-togethers, such as birthday and holiday celebrations.

To be equitable, room bookings are limited such that a room cannot be reserved over both lunch and supper on the same day.

To reserve a meeting room, or to ask questions about reserving a room, please see/contact Reception.

1. **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