

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

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

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



Here are the main points currently governing Visiting during the on-going pandemic (subject to on-going change):

1. There is no longer a vaccination requirement (though vaccination is highly recommended);
2. 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 will be implemented in an Outbreak situation;
3. We are asking family/visitors to maintain mask wearing at all times (covering mouth, nose and chin), including while visiting in a resident’s room;
4. We continue to do on-site rapid antigen testing and health screening for both visitors and staff (mandated by the province); 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 will be in place in the event of an Outbreak situation).

Unfortunately, COVID is still prevalent. Outbreaks are affecting long term care homes, retirement homes and hospital sites in the Middlesex-London area. As such, the importance of not visiting when you feel unwell cannot be stressed enough.

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

Please contact The Lodge with any questions regarding Visiting and/or The Lodge’s on-going response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. **Influenza (Flu) and COVID Vaccines**



As both COVID-19 and Influenza are currently prevalent in the Middlesex-London area, we encourage all family members/visitors to get both their Annual Flu Shot and new Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, in order to protect not only yourself, but our vulnerable residents, who count on us to protect them.

If you have any questions about these vaccines, please contact Sonya Gillett, Director of Resident Care (sgillett@middlesex.ca, or at 519-245-2520, ext. 6234).

1. **Annual Resident/Family Satisfaction Survey**

Provincial long term care homes such as Strathmere Lodge are required to survey residents/families annually on their satisfaction with the care, services, programs, goods and accommodations provided. To that end, The Lodge sent out a separate mailing in November requesting residents/families to complete and return our annual survey.

We value your feedback, and request that completed surveys be submitted by mid-January. After which, we will circulate a summary of survey results in a subsequent newsletter.

If you have any questions about the satisfaction survey, please contact Brent Kerwin, Lodge Administrator (at 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

1. **Fridges in Resident Rooms**



For residents/families who elect to maintain a fridge in their room, this is a reminder to residents/families to frequently review fridge contents, and to purge fridge contents prior to spoilage/expiration, in order to avoid any health problems associated with consuming spoiled food, and in order to avoid foul odours/unsanitary conditions.

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 are:

1. Tub replacement in our Sydenham Meadows bathing facilities area;
2. Bed replacement … 10 new “high-low” electric beds (to help in minimizing resident falls);
3. Popcorn machine for the residents; and
4. New shuffleboard set for the residents.
5. **Instructional Video on Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)**

Public Health Ontario has produced a 20-minute video (available via the YouTube website) on basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures for people who are visiting residents who live in congregate settings, including long term care homes such as The Lodge. The video covers hand washing, masking and personal protective equipment (PPE), along with links to related resources (the video is generic to all infections, not just COVID-19).

Those interested can find the video via the following link:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQ61SCvagPs>

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. **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