

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – July ‘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. **Making Deposits to Resident Trust Accounts With The Lodge**



For residents with Strathmere Lodge resident trust accounts, the option to deposit funds electronically (versus issuing us cheques) has been in place since last year.

If opting to deposit funds electronically (known as “Electronic Funds Transfer”, or “EFT”), use email address: trustfund@middlesex.ca (while on your banking website), and be sure to insert the applicable resident name in the Message section when transferring funds, so we know which resident account to apply transferred funds to.

Contact Augustine Caines, Office Supervisor (at ext. 6246, or via email at: acaines@middlesex.ca) with any questions.

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. Replacement of ceiling lifts, weigh scales and lift bars for each resident tub room (to safely transfer residents in/out of the bath tub);
2. New patio furniture for Parkview Place/Arbour Glen resident/family balcony (second floor);
3. New fridge for Hickory Woods dining room servery;
4. New “digital pens” for safe, efficient electronic submission of resident medication prescriptions to our pharmacy provider;
5. Additional staffing hours (from increased provincial funding) in order to enhance our “Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO)” staffing resources aimed at supporting residents (and their families) with the expressive behaviours associated with dementia and other cognitive disorders;
6. The Lodge’s “IPAC (Infection Prevention and Control) Lead” successfully completed her Infection Control Certification Exam; and
7. The Lodge’s Medical Director successfully completed the Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians’ Medical Director course.
8. **Bird Feeders Create Problems**

Though many of us are bird lovers, we are requesting that no bird feeders be established at The Lodge, as the bird seed attracts mice/critters, who then enter the facility.

The other problem we are facing is that bird feeders are attracting birds, who then nest in our roof areas, creating roof damage and staining the building façade with bird droppings.

Thank you very much for your cooperation on this matter.

1. **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. **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