

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – Feb. ‘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), and to refrain from food/drinks;
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 for social outings will be in place in the event of an Outbreak situation).

Unfortunately, COVID is still prevalent, as are other respiratory illnesses such as Influenza and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). Outbreaks are affecting long term care homes, retirement homes and hospital sites in the Middlesex-London area, and beyond. 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. **2022 Resident Income Tax Receipts**

Enclosed with February Statements.

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. Bed replacement … 9 new “high-low” electric beds (39 beds in total for 2022) - to help in minimizing resident falls;
2. New “Sara” lift for resident lifts/transfers (courtesy of generous donation from the Royal Canadian Legion); and
3. Balloon Badminton set (for resident recreation).
4. **Strathmere Lodge Webpage**

Residents/families are invited to visit the Strathmere Lodge webpage (<https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>), where the following types of information are posted:

1. Electronic version of this monthly newsletter;
2. The Lodge’s Emergency Response Plans;
3. The Lodge’s Visitor Policy;
4. The Lodge’s Annual Report on Quality Improvement; and
5. Links to such resources as:
	1. Provincial long term care homes legislation;
	2. Long term care home inspection reports; and
	3. Long term care home comparative performance information.

Questions and/or comments about The Lodge’s webpage can be directed to Brent Kerwin, Administrator (519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

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