

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – June ‘22**

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 ongoing change):

1. There is no longer a vaccination requirement (though vaccination is highly recommended);
2. Indoor visits are to be conducted two (2) visitors at a time, but there is no limit as to who can visit (unless The Lodge is in an Outbreak situation);
3. Visitors can be five (5) years old or older;
4. Mask wearing remains mandatory at all times (as per province), including visiting in resident rooms;
5. Those entering The Lodge are subject to on-site rapid antigen testing, currently being conducted daily; and
6. Residents may leave Lodge premises, and are not required to isolate upon return, unless COVID infection is determined (restrictions on leaving the premises will be in place in an Outbreak situation).

The importance of not visiting when you feel unwell cannot be stressed enough.

Please contact The Lodge with any questions regarding Visiting during the pandemic.

1. **Legislation Governing Provincial Long Term Care Homes**

Last month, the new provincial Act and Regulation governing provincial long term care homes (all 620+) took effect. The “Fixing Long Term Care Act” replaces the “Long Term Care Homes Act” and “Regulation 79/10” is replaced by “Regulation 246/22”.

The new legislation can be found on the provincial “e-Laws” website, or via links provided on The Lodge’s webpage (<https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>).

While most of the legislation remains the same, significant changes include:

1. The Right of residents to receive visitors, even during pandemic events;
2. Enshrined staffing level requirements (which has led to increased provincial funding for increased staffing this year, with more increases to follow over the next 2 years); and
3. An increased emphasis on Infection Prevention and Control, including additional staff training.

Feel free to contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, with any questions about long term care home legislation (519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

1. **Lodge Improvements**



Through the generous donation of a family member, The Lodge now has a “wheelchair accessible swing”, to be used for the enjoyment of both residents and families.

The new swing is located to the front of The Lodge, near the main entrance.

To learn more about the swing, please speak with a Recreation department representative, or contact Marcy Welch, Recreation and Physiotherapy Manager (519-245-2520, ext. 6226, or via email at: mwelch@middlesex.ca).

1. **Provincial Co-payment Rate Reduction for Basic Resident Rooms**



Those who are receiving a co-payment rate reduction (i.e., residents in a shared room with a lower income as defined by the province) must apply for the provincial rate reduction annually. Please send/bring us a copy of your 2021 Notice of Assessment (NOA) from Canada Revenue Agency as soon as possible in order to be re-assessed for continued rate reduction eligibility this year.

Those residents who have experienced an annual income reduction this year, but have previously paid the full monthly provincial co-payment rate on their basic room, may qualify for a co-payment rate reduction. If this sounds applicable to you, we can assess whether you qualify for a rate reduction if you submit your 2021 Notice of Assessment (NOA) to us.

For clarification and/or additional information, please contact Augustine Caines, Office Supervisor (519-245-2520, ext. 6246, or via email at: acaines@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. **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 both our Reception desk and the staff lounge, and are available for your review.

**Brent Kerwin,**

Administrator