

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – Aug. ‘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 per resident, 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 when visiting indoors, as per provincial mandate;
5. We continue to do on-site rapid antigen testing and health screening (mandated by the province); and
6. Residents may leave Lodge premises, and are not required to isolate upon return, unless COVID infection is suspected/determined (restrictions on leaving the premises will be in place in the event of an Outbreak situation).

The importance of not visiting when you feel unwell cannot be stressed enough. COVID is still prevalent.

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

1. **4th COVID-19 Vaccine Dose**



All eligible and consenting Lodge residents (or Substitute Decision Makers as applicable) have received their 4th COVID-19 vaccine dose, as strongly recommended by the province.

The province has recently opened up 4th vaccine dose availability to all adults, and as such, The Lodge is encouraging uptake of the 4th dose among all family members/visitors and Lodge staff.

The Lodge will be offering opportunities for family members/visitors to obtain their 4th dose on-site at The Lodge. For those interested in receiving their 4th dose at The Lodge, please contact Crystal Brooks, Director of Resident Care (at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6228, or via email at cbrooks@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, recent improvements made are:

1. Adjustable Dining Room Tables – We have replaced several of our dining room tables across our five (5) resident home areas with 4-person adjustable dining room tables. Each of the 4 dining spots at a table can be individually adjusted (height and depth) to suit individual resident need (e.g., differently sized wheelchairs), while also providing space for staff at the tables to provide feeding assistance to residents as applicable;
2. Sween Body Powder – This newly introduced product is now being used for residents who develop pressure injuries to the skin or skin tears. Specifically, this powder product is now being used to keep pressure injury and skin tear areas dry during the treatment process, where moisture can develop and lead to possible infection; and
3. (Commenced and in progress) upgrading our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system (funding specific to this project has been provided by both the provincial and federal governments). This project is expected to be completed by year end.
4. **Strathmere Lodge Webpage**

Further to the renewal/changes to provincial long term care homes legislation made in April, long term care homes such as The Lodge are now required to post the following documentation on their webpage/website:

1. Visitor Policy (which guarantees the right of residents to receive visitors, even during pandemics);
2. Annual Quality Improvement Report (which speaks to The Lodge’s on-going efforts to review and improve our care, services, programs, goods and accommodations); and
3. Emergency Response Plan Documentation (i.e., on a host of potential emergency situations, such as fire, natural disaster, bomb threats and violent situations).

To view the above, please visit The Lodge webpage (part of Middlesex County’s website) at: <https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>

We welcome feedback (e.g., questions/comments/concerns) on our new webpage content noted above (please contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, at bkerwin@middlesex.ca, or (519) 245-2520, ext. 6222).

1. **Business Office/Reception Hours**



Please note that our Business Office/Reception Desk hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm (closed on Statutory holidays).

To reach the Business Office/Reception Desk directly, contact (519) 245-2520, ext. 6221.

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