



Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party Newsletter – Nov. ‘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 on-going change):

- a) There is no longer a vaccination requirement (though vaccination is highly recommended);
- b) 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;
- c) Mask wearing remains mandatory at all times (covering mouth, nose and chin), except outdoors or in a resident's room, as per provincial mandate;
- d) We continue to do on-site rapid antigen testing and health screening for both indoor and outdoor visits (mandated by the province); and
- e) 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).

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 pandemic.

2. Influenza (Flu) and COVID Vaccines



As we approach another winter season and Influenza season, we encourage all family members/visitors to get both their Flu Shot and new Bivalent COVID 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, Assistant Director of Resident Care (sgillett@middlesex.ca, or at 519-245-2520, ext. 6234).

3. Lodge Quality Improvement (QI) Committee



Strathmere Lodge has a Quality Improvement (QI) Committee that meets quarterly (March, June, September and December), the purpose of which is to review the Quality of Lodge care, services, programs, goods and accommodations, and to identify ways of improving such.

Our QI Committee meeting agenda includes: reviewing Lodge inspection results (including inspections conducted by: Ministry of Long Term Care, Ministry of Labour, Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Department, and Middlesex-London Health Unit); reviewing comparative provincial data on long term care homes; and developing/reviewing The Lodge's Annual Quality Improvement Plan.

Our QI Committee membership includes our healthcare professionals (Medical Director, Pharmacy Consultant, Registered Dietitian, Nurses), management personnel and a resident representative.

With our revised provincial Regulation (i.e., Ontario Regulation 246/22), introduced in April, long term care homes are now required to have a QI Committee that includes a family representative. If you are interested in being a family member representative on our QI Committee, please contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator (at 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

4. 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:

- a) Flooring Replacement in our Arbour Glen resident home area – We have replaced the carpet in the Arbour Glen home area corridors (all five resident home areas have now had original 2006 carpet replaced); and
- b) LED Lighting Upgrade in Arbour Glen – this completes a facility-wide conversion to energy efficient lighting in all Lodge areas.

5. 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).

6. 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