

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – Sept. ‘21**

Dear Strathmere Lodge residents, family members, friends/responsible parties:

1. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Update**

Since last month’s newsletter, there have been no provincial changes impacting Visiting. Here are the main points governing long term care homes:

* There is no limit to the number of in-room visitors that can be designated by substitute decision makers/residents (substitute decision makers/residents are asked to designate authorized in-room visitors by contacting The Lodge at ext. 6216);
* A maximum of two (2) visitors at a time may make an in-room visit (to maintain social distancing requirements);
* Visitors are not subject to on-site rapid antigen testing if “fully vaccinated” (provincial vaccine documentation must be shown to be exempt from testing);
* There is no limit to the number of outdoor visitors per visit, subject to the need for social distancing (outdoor visits to be booked with The Lodge by calling ext 6216); and
* Residents may leave Lodge premises for social absences – same day absences or overnight absences (overnight absences to be discussed with The Lodge).

Please contact The Lodge, or consult The Lodge’s webpage, with any questions regarding Visiting or Testing.

1. **Monthly Co-payment Rate**



Residents with a lower annual income may qualify for a monthly co-payment rate reduction as approved by the province.

Your annual NOA (Notice of Assessment) from Revenue Canada (CRA) is necessary to determine eligibility for rate reduction. The NOA is needed annually, as eligibility for rate reduction must be (re)assessed every year as per the Ministry of Long Term Care.

The maximum rate reduction for 2021 is achieved by excluding the extra GAINS benefits paid to seniors in 2020 as a result of COVID-19. But, to exclude the extra GAINS benefits from this year’s rate reduction eligibility calculation, residents/substitute decision makers must provide The Lodge with a “GAINS Rate Statement Letter” from the Ministry of Finance (MoF), which is obtained from the MoF by calling 1-866-668-8297.

Please contact Augustine Caines, Office Supervisor, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6246 (or via email: acaines@middlesex.ca) with questions about Co-payment Rate Reduction.

1. **Labelling of Residents’ 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 (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 me at 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>

Electronic back copies of our newsletter can be found on our web page. Hard copies are compiled in binders at both our Reception desk and the staff lounge, and are available for your review.

You can find additional copies of this newsletter edition at our Public Information Board near Reception.

**Brent Kerwin,**

Administrator

Distribution: Responsible Parties, Auxiliary, Information Board, Resident Home Areas (5), Website, County Council, Staff, Other Stakeholders