

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – Dec. ‘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 during the pandemic:

* 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);
* 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);
* Residents may leave Lodge premises for social absences – same day absences or overnight absences (overnight absences to be discussed with The Lodge); and
* Public Health measures, including mask wearing and social distancing, still apply, regardless of vaccination status.

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

1. **COVID Health Screening at Front Entrance**



Please note the process of temperature-taking for both visitors and staff has recently changed.

Instead of the use of a hand-held tympanic (ear) thermometer, temperature taking is now being done via Canon “Task” technology.

At the entrance, visitors and staff will face a small portable monitor that will conduct contactless temperature screening via infrared thermography.

For more information about the Canon technology, please contact Crystal Brooks, Director of Resident Care (Ph. 519-245-2520, ext. 6228, or via email at cbrooks@middlesex.ca).

1. **Recent Provincial Announcements Regarding Long Term Care Homes**



The province has recently announced a substantial commitment to increase the funding of Ontario’s 600+ long term care homes.

The province has made a $4.9 billion commitment to hire more long term care home staff over the next 3.5 years to ensure that residents receive on average four (4) hours of direct care per day by 2024-25.

This is a substantial increase in funding, and long sought after by long term care home stakeholders. You can read more about this funding increase at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000933/ontario-taking-action-to-immediately-increase-staffing-in-ltc-leading-to-more-direct-care-for-residents>.

Related to the above, the province has also recently announced that the number of provincial long term care home inspectors will double over the coming year in order to enhance the monitoring of homes’ adherence to provincial long term care home legislation. You can read more about this announcement by going to: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001041/ontario-launching-new-and-improved-inspections-program-for-long-term-care>.

1. **Christmas Gift Idea for Residents**

For those looking for Christmas gift ideas for Lodge residents, you may want to consider the purchase of “adaptive clothing”, which is clothing created for people with varying disabilities and designed to make dressing easier for those who cannot dress independently.

Adaptive clothing is available at places such as Geri Fashions (<https://gerifashions.com/>) or Silverts (<https://www.silverts.com/ca/>).

Please contact Marcy Welch, Manager of Recreation/Physiotherapy, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6226 (or, via email: mwelch@middlesex.ca), with any questions regarding adaptive clothing.

1. **Ladies’ Auxiliary Fundraiser**



Regrettably, due to the ongoing pandemic, the Ladies’ Auxiliary will not be holding its Annual Christmas Bazaar this year.

Hopefully, next year the Ladies’ Auxiliary can resume its annual tradition of offering crafts (including woodworking) and baked goods for sale.

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, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6244 (or, via email: jfournier@middlesex.ca).

1. **Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays**



From all of us who work at Strathmere Lodge, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our residents/families/responsible parties.

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

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