

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

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

1. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Update – Visiting and Testing**



Since last month’s newsletter, the province is permitting both Outdoor Visits on the premises, and Social (less than a day) or Temporary (overnight) Absences, where fully vaccinated residents can leave the premises.

The above is in addition to the two (2) “Essential Caregiver” visitors, who can visit in resident rooms. These 2 visitors must remain the same 2 individuals per resident, and as mutually agreed to by the resident/Substitute Decision Maker and The Lodge. Essential Caregivers do not require an appointment to visit, but must submit to COVID Rapid Antigen Testing (as many as three times a week) before a visit may proceed (a negative test result being necessary).

Outdoor visits are by appointment only (ext. 6216), and COVID Rapid Antigen Testing is not required (but, health screening at the front door is).

Overnight Absences require consultation with The Lodge beforehand; of note is that a resident must isolate in their room upon return from an Overnight Absence. Social Absences (i.e., absences within the same day) do not require pre-approval.

Adhering to Public Health measures (e.g., masking, social distancing and hand hygiene) remain the expectation.

Please contact The Lodge (or consult our webpage) with any questions regarding Visiting and/or Testing.

1. **COVID-19 Vaccination**



The province continues its efforts to roll out the COVID vaccine.

As the number of vaccinated people grows, we can expect the province to loosen up the rules as to Visiting, Testing and the Wearing of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

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 rate reduction annually. Please send us a copy of your 2020 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 2020 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**



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 at: 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