

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – March ‘22**

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

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

Since last month’s newsletter, The Lodge has successfully resolved a COVID outbreak, having been one of many long-term care homes afflicted with such.

Effective February 21, 2022, the province has further eased visiting restrictions in long-term care homes. Here are the main points currently governing Visiting long term care homes during the pandemic (subject to ongoing provincial change):

1. There is no limit to the number of visitors (i.e., in February, the limit went from 2 to 4, then from 4 to unlimited);
2. Visitors can be five (5) years old or older;
3. Three (3) visitors may visit a resident at any one time, and visits are to be confined to resident rooms (i.e., this limit was eased in February from 2 to 3);
4. Visitor vaccination still mandatory – third (3rd) dose required by March 14th (or three months from second dose; six months for those under 18);
5. Social distancing and mask wearing remain mandatory at all times, even in resident rooms, and despite vaccination status;
6. Those entering The Lodge are subject to on-site rapid antigen testing at each visit/entry, despite vaccination status;
7. Visitor hours ~~remain 10am to 6pm daily~~ UPDATE 5am -11pm daily;
8. Residents may now leave Lodge premises during the day for social absences (this restriction was lifted in February); and
9. Overnight resident absences can resume for residents who have 3 vaccine doses.

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

1. **Lodge Improvements**



While the pandemic has been the main focus, The Lodge has been implementing some improvements on an on-going basis, designed to enhance the care, comfort and safety of Lodge residents. More recent improvements include:

1. New high-low beds (to minimize resident falls and injury);
2. New lift equipment (to safely lift/transfer residents as necessary);
3. Artwork/painting in the Bear Creek resident home area (to achieve a more home-like environment);
4. New disinfecting/sterilizing equipment (to enhance Infection Prevention and Control protocols);
5. Resident room window pane replacement;
6. Fencing replacement on the terrace (second floor);
7. New building access control system; and
8. Adjustable dining room tables (to facilitate resident eating independence).
9. **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. **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