

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – Oct. ‘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);
* 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. **Third Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine**

As a result of the increasing presence of the COVID-19 Delta virus variant in the province, along with weaker immune responses in older populations, the province has announced that residents in long-term care homes will be eligible to receive third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to enhance their safety.

The province, including the Chief Medical Officer of Health, strongly encourages all residents in homes to take advantage of the third dose being offered to maximize protection from COVID-19.

Residents of homes will be eligible to receive their third dose five months after they have received their second dose. If readily available from the Middlesex London Health Unit, third doses will be the same product as second doses, but the mRNA vaccines (i.e., Pfizer and Moderna) may be interchanged if vaccine supply becomes an issue.

The Lodge is targeting completion of the third dose administration (on-site at The Lodge) to consenting residents (via Substitute Decision Maker as applicable) by early October.

Please contact Crystal Brooks, Director of Resident Care (519) 245-2520, ext. 6228 (or, via email: cbrooks@middlesex.ca) with any questions regarding the third dose.

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