

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

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

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



Here are the main points currently governing Visiting during the on-going pandemic (subject to ongoing change):

1. There is no longer a vaccination requirement (though vaccination is highly recommended);
2. Indoor visits are to be conducted no more than four (4) visitors at a time per resident, but there is no limit as to who can visit (unless The Lodge is in an Outbreak situation);
3. Visitors can be five (5) years old or older;
4. Mask wearing remains mandatory at all times (covering mouth, nose and chin) when visiting indoors, as per provincial mandate;
5. We continue to do on-site rapid antigen testing and health screening for both indoor and outdoor visits (mandated by the province); and
6. Residents may leave Lodge premises, and are not required to isolate upon return, unless COVID infection is suspected/determined (restrictions on leaving the premises will be in place in the event of an Outbreak situation).

Unfortunately, COVID is still prevalent. Outbreaks are affecting long term care homes, retirement homes and hospital sites in the Middlesex-London area. As such, the importance of not visiting when you feel unwell cannot be stressed enough.

Please ensure hand sanitizing before visiting a resident, and when leaving a resident’s room.

Please contact The Lodge with any questions regarding Visiting and/or The Lodge’s on-going response to the COVID pandemic.

1. **Influenza (Flu) and COVID Vaccines**



As we approach another winter season and Influenza season, we encourage all family members/visitors to get their Flu Shot and new Bivalent COVID vaccine, in order to protect not only yourself, but our vulnerable residents, who count on us to protect them.

If you have any questions about these vaccines, please contact Crystal Brooks, Director of Resident Care (cbrooks@middlesex.ca, or at 519-245-2520, ext. 6228).

1. **Lodge Quality Improvement Committee**



Strathmere Lodge has a Quality Improvement (QI) Committee that meets quarterly (March, June, September and December), the purpose of which is to review the Quality of Lodge care, services, programs, goods and accommodations, and to identify ways of improving such.

Our QI Committee meeting agenda includes: reviewing inspection results (including inspections conducted by: Ministry of Long Term Care, Ministry of Labour, Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Department, and Middlesex-London Health Unit); reviewing comparative provincial data on long term care homes; and developing/reviewing The Lodge’s Annual Quality Improvement Plan.

Our QI Committee membership includes our healthcare professionals (Medical Director, Pharmacy Consultant, Registered Dietitian, Nurses), management personnel and a resident representative.

With our revised provincial Regulation (i.e., Ontario Regulation 246/22), introduced in April, long term care homes are now required to have a QI Committee that includes a family representative. If you are interested in being a family member representative on our QI Committee, please contact Brent Kerwin, Administration (at 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

1. **Annual Change to Monthly Co-payment Rate**



The Ministry of Long Term Care typically makes an annual adjustment to the monthly co-payment rate paid by those residing in a provincial long term care home (630 homes in Ontario).

Please note that, effective October 1st, the province has increased the monthly co-payment that residents pay, for both private rooms and basic (shared) rooms.

New provincial rates were included in our mailing last month, and can be found on The Lodge webpage at: <https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care/admissions-care>.

Please contact Augustine Caines, Office Supervisor (519-245-2520, ext. 6246, or via email at: acaines@middlesex.ca), with any questions on co-payment rates.

1. **Fall/Winter Meal Menu**



We are currently working on introducing the residents’ Fall/Winter Meal Menu, which will be implemented in October.

In preparing our menus (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter), The Lodge adheres to the requirements in our provincial long term care homes legislation, which include:

(a)  a menu cycle of 21 days in duration;

(b)  menus for regular, therapeutic and texture modified diets for both meals (3) and snacks (3);

(c)  alternative choices of entrees, vegetables and desserts at lunch and dinner;

(d)  alternative beverage choices at meals and snacks;

(e)  approval by our Registered Dietitian; and

(f)  review by The Lodge’s Residents’ Council.

Please contact our Food Service Manager, Brittany Hodgson (at: bhodgson@middlesex.ca, or at 519-245-2520, ext. 6264), with any questions/concerns about resident food and/or food service.

1. **Labelling of Residents’ Clothing**



To prevent missing 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 our Reception desk, and are available for your review.

**Brent Kerwin,** Administrator