

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

CHAMBERS OF
REBECCA R. PALLMEYER
CHIEF JUDGE

312-435-5600

August 3, 2021

Dear Dirksen Courthouse:

Today I have learned of another employee/contractor, last in the Dirksen Courthouse on the 2nd, 13th, and 16th floors on Friday, July 30, 2021, tested positive for COVID-19. We are notifying persons who had direct contact with this individual, and the General Services Administration will promptly clean the impacted areas.

As the number of positive COVID tests continues to climb, Cook County Health officials are now recommending "universal masking" while indoors, in alignment with CDC's [updated guidelines](#). I urge you to exercise caution not only here in the Courthouse, but also in your life away from work. Please do continue to adhere to the Court's mask guidelines of wearing a mask in public settings as well as to the CDC's additional recommendations.

And as you know, we are expecting all court staff to be vaccinated or to seek an exemption. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please make an appointment now. Public health authorities tell us over and over that vaccinations are the very best weapon we have against this virus. The vaccine protects you and persons you are in contact with, including children and persons who are immunocompromised or can't get vaccinated. Right now, [locations](#) throughout the State are administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to kids ages 12-15. Everyone who is 16 years of age or older is eligible to receive any one of the three COVID-19 vaccines available and can find their nearest vaccination location by clicking [here](#) or calling (833) 621-1284 to schedule an appointment.

Thanks again for taking responsible action and doing your best to stay healthy.

Yours truly,



Rebecca R. Pallmeyer
Chief Judge
Chair, Dirksen Courthouse Building Security Committee