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 5, 2021

Dear Dirksen Courthouse:

Today I have learned of an employee/contractor, last in the Dirksen Courthouse today that tested positive for COVID-19 through the SHIELD testing program. The employee/contractor was on the 2nd and 5th floors of the Courthouse. We are notifying persons who had direct contact with this individual, and the General Services Administration will promptly clean the impacted areas.

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are fortunate to have the vaccines widely available and free of charge. Individuals who are vaccinated are far less likely to become infected. Vaccinated persons who do contract COVID-19 with a breakthrough case almost never have significant symptoms or require hospitalization.

So please do this, for yourself and for others. The vaccine protects you and persons you are in contact with, including children and persons who are immunocompromised or can't get vaccinated. Remember you can find a <u>location here</u> throughout the State that is administering the 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 <u>here</u> or calling (833) 621-1284 to schedule an appointment.

I appreciate your help in keeping everyone safe.

Yours truly,

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