

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 17, 2021

Dear Dirksen Courthouse:

The COVID metrics in Illinois and Chicago [continue to slowly rise](#). We are remaining vigilant here in our Courthouses, and today I need to report on two Dirksen Courthouse employee/contractors who have recently tested positive for COVID-19:

- the first employee/contractor was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Friday, August 13, 2021, and accessed the 11th floor; and
- the second employee/contractor was last in the Dirksen Courthouse yesterday, August 16, 2021, and accessed the 25th floor.

We understand that these individuals were on no other floors of the buildings, wore a face covering for the entire time they were in the buildings, and maintained appropriate distancing while in the Courthouses. Individuals who had direct contact with these individuals have been notified, and the General Services Administration will clean the impacted areas.

Masks, social-distancing, and handwashing all make a difference. But the most powerful tool against this virus is vaccination. We are so fortunate that the vaccine is available to us at no charge. All of us have heard about “breakthrough” infections; it’s true that vaccinated persons can still test positive. But those numbers remain low, and when vaccinated people do contract the investigation, they are far far less likely to have significant symptoms or require hospitalization.

The vaccine protects you, but that’s not the only reason to get vaccinated: Please do so to protect others with whom you are in contact, including children and persons who are immunocompromised or can’t get vaccinated. Remember you can find a [location here](#) 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 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. If you haven’t done it, please do so now. If someone you love hasn’t done it, tell that person you hope they will do so now.

I appreciate your help in keeping everyone safe.

Yours truly,



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