



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

**CHAMBERS OF  
REBECCA R. PALLMEYER**

312-435-5600

January 27, 2022

Dear Courthouse Occupants:

Two individuals who were recently in our Dirksen Courthouse have tested positive for COVID-19, both of them last in the courthouse on January 26. One of these individuals was on the 14th floor and another on the third and fourth floors. Both adhered to the masking and social distance requirements. Persons who had contact with them have been notified, and GSA has taken steps to clean the spaces.

I never enjoy sending these letters, but I have a responsibility to be transparent. Two things I hope you will remember: First, as you know, we have had a number of employees and contractors test positive for COVID. When this happens, we expect them to quarantine. The quarantine policy is attached. We make every effort to ensure that persons who test positive leave the workplace, and in general that effort has paid off: I realize that things could change, but at this time there has been little evidence of transmission of COVID inside the Courthouse.

Second: If you have symptoms, please get tested. You can take an at-home test, or test in your community, or, if you prefer, test here in our lobby. But do not stay at work if you have symptoms. You are entitled to take sick leave and COVID leave, and you should do so. If you test positive but feel well, you should nevertheless quarantine for the appropriate length of time, but you may be able to work remotely. Indeed, many people who are fully vaccinated but get COVID report that they feel pretty sick for a day or two, but after that, symptoms are relatively mild. So please do get vaccinated, get a booster, wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance. If you're sick, get tested and stay home. This will be behind us one day.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca R. Pallmeyer", written in a cursive style.

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