

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

October 19, 2021


Dear Dirksen Courthouse:

On Sunday, an employee/contractor who was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Thursday, October 14, 2021, tested positive for COVID-19. The employee/contractor was on the 27th floor of the Courthouse, and no other floors; wore a face covering; and maintained appropriate distancing while in the Courthouse. Individuals who had direct contact with this person have been notified, and the General Services Administration will clean the impacted areas.

Please do continue to adhere to all protective measures: masks, social-distancing, and handwashing. Most of you are vaccinated as well; for those who are not, please do take this step as soon as you can. We will expect those employees who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks at all times in the workplace, to be tested twice a week, and abide by restrictions on work-related travel.

A final word on vaccinations: Even those of us who are fully vaccinated can get “breakthrough” infections, nearly always after exposure to someone who has not been vaccinated. For a person who has underlying medical challenges, a breakthrough infection can be life-threatening. But this makes it *more* important for everyone to be vaccinated, not less. We get the vaccine not only to protect ourselves, but also because we care about others. You may not be vulnerable, but your vaccination protects other people who are. The vaccines are free, safe, widely-available, and effective. If you haven’t taken this step, please do so now.

Yours truly,



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