

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

November 12, 2020

NOTICE OF PARTIAL TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF IN-COURT PROCEEDINGS

Dear Dirksen Courthouse and Roszkowski Courthouse Occupants:

In the last several days, there have been marked increases in the numbers of positive COVID-19 test results and hospitalizations in the Northern District of Illinois. Yesterday and earlier today, Illinois Governor Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lightfoot responded by issuing advisories and recommendations for restrictions on travel and in-person gatherings. As you have seen in many recent letters from me, our court is not immune from the Coronavirus. A number of employees, visitors, and security personnel have tested positive.

Together with the District Court's Executive Committee and the Restart Task Force, I am ordering restrictions on activities in our courthouses as follows: Effective at 4:30pm on Friday, November 13, 2020, the Clerk's Office in Chicago and Rockford will close to in-person assistance until Tuesday, January 19, 2020. Clerk's Office staff will accept filings via CM/ECF, e-mail, mail or the drop box in the lobby of the Courthouses. In addition, beginning Monday, November 16, 2020, all civil case proceedings will be held virtually. Jury trials will remain suspended until after January 19, 2020. To limit the number of individuals in the Courthouses at any time, all hearings in all civil cases will be conducted virtually, either by either via phone or video. We are drafting an order confirming these restrictions with a greater level of detail and will issue it shortly.

I need not remind you further that the virus remains highly contagious and that you need to continue efforts to maintain social distance, wear a mask, and wash your hands frequently. Note that since Wednesday, I have learned of the following persons who recently have tested positive for COVID-19:

- An employee on the 25^h floor of the Dirksen Courthouse, last in the Courthouse on Thursday, November 5, 2020.
- A Court Security Officer (CSO) who was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. The CSO was assigned to duties on the 11th floor of the Courthouse.
- A CSO who was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The CSO was assigned to duties in the lobby of the Courthouse, including the public screening station.

As before, we understand that the individuals wore face coverings during the entire time they were in the building, and the General Administrative Services already ensured that the areas visited have been properly cleaned.

Your safety remains my first priority as Chief Judge. Please do your best to protect yourselves and others, not only here in the Courthouse, but also in your personal lives. This will be behind us—soon, I hope—and I want all of you back in person and healthy.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca R. Pallmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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