

March 17, 2020

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

Late this morning, I was notified that an employee who works on the eighth floor of the Dirksen Courthouse has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The employee was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Since learning of the positive test results, Tom Bruton has been in contact with the Chicago Department of Public Health to seek their guidance on how to proceed. In addition, we have communicated with the General Services Administration about plans to appropriately clean the impacted areas of the Courthouse.

The Chicago Department of Public Health has advised that there is no need to close the Dirksen Courthouse at this time. We do have an obligation to notify employees of the agency with whom this employee had close contact while in the Courthouse. The employer is contacting staff now to notify them of their potential exposure.

The General Services Administration will be hiring a contractor experienced in performing microbial-related remediation to perform specialized cleaning of the eighth floor areas and will also be expeditiously cleaning elevators, washrooms, and other common areas of the Dirksen Courthouse.

I am sharing this information not to alarm you, but to remind you that you should continue to exercise care in all your interactions, and you should monitor yourself for any symptoms associated with COVID-19. Should you have questions about symptoms or specific questions about your health, do contact your healthcare provider.

We will continue to communicate with the staff of the Chicago Department of Public Health for further guidance and will share that guidance with you. All best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca R. Pallmeyer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rebecca R. Pallmeyer
Chief Judge, United States District Court
Chair, Dirksen Building Safety and Security Committee