



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

**CHAMBERS OF  
REBECCA R. PALLMEYER**

312-435-5600

January 3, 2022

Dear Courthouse Occupants:

I have learned of two individuals who have recently tested positive for COVID-19. The first of these was last in the Dirksen Courthouse, on the third floor, on Wednesday, December 29 and received positive test results on a test taken today. The second individual was on the fourteenth floor of the Courthouse on Thursday, December 30, 2021 and received positive test results last night. Both of these persons adhered to our protocols, including a mask and social distancing. Other persons who had direct contact with them have been notified, and the General Services Administration will clean the impacted areas.

It's not surprising that we are seeing continued transmission of COVID-19. The good news is that fully-vaccinated individuals are reporting only mild or relatively brief symptoms. As a reminder: when a vaccinated person tests positive, we should not draw the conclusion that "vaccines don't work." We should instead recognize that vaccines are protecting persons from serious illness and hospitalization. Omicron is particularly contagious, but the steps we are taking—vaccinations, boosters, hand-washing, masks, and social distancing—do make a difference.

The new year has begun. I look forward to a happy one for all of us.

Yours truly,

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 District Judge  
Chair, Dirksen Courthouse Building Security  
Committee

RRP/skl