

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 23, 2020

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

For the second time in two days, I am writing about a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Earlier today, I learned that an individual who visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the Dirksen Courthouse, most recently on Thursday, October 15, 2020, tested positive last night. Based on our brief investigation, we believe the individual was on no other floors of the building and wore a face covering for the entire time the individual was in the building. We have communicated this news to the General Services Administration (GSA) and confirmed that the locations that the individual visited have been cleaned more than once since October 15, 2020 using appropriate protocols. GSA proactively disinfects certain areas of the Courthouse after various events.

Note that thorough cleaning took place, even before we had any notice of the positive test. The cleaning efforts and our communications with you are reflections of our concern for our safety. This individual positive test, like the ones I have described in earlier letters, is in my view not a basis for alarm. As always, please continue to monitor yourselves for symptoms associated with COVID-19, and do contact your healthcare provider with any questions about symptoms or specific questions about your health.

We will continue to closely monitor the increase in COVID-19 transmissions in counties of the Northern District of Illinois and will take appropriate measures to maintain a safe workplace. News reports suggest that new infections appear to be a result of social gatherings that are being moved indoors as the weather gets colder. Please do continue to maintain physical distancing efforts, wash hands often, and wear a mask over nose and mouth, here in the Courthouse and in all of your social interactions. Thank you for your efforts.

Yours truly,



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