

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 3, 2020

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

This evening, I learned of another positive COVID-19 test result—that of a Court Security Officer (CSO) who was in the Dirksen Courthouse as recently as yesterday. We have learned, based on a brief investigation, that while the CSO was assigned to duties in the lobby of the Courthouse, he/she was not assigned to the public lobby screening station. The General Services Administration (GSA) cleans the lobby throughout the day, a daily cleaning using an EPA approved disinfectant. Also, high contact areas are clean multiple times a day. We have notified the GSA and requested that they clean these areas again.

I do not like to write these letters any more than you like to receive them. In this instance, again, I believe the individual positive test, like the ones I have described in earlier letters, is not a basis for alarm. It is, however, one more reminder of the need for continued vigilant enforcement of our rules. Because COVID-19 spreads easily between people (not so easily from contact with surfaces), we must always use a **face mask** that covers our nose and mouth, maintain physical **distance** from one another, and **wash hands** frequently and thoroughly—not only when you are in the Courthouse, but also in your social interactions. Please continue to monitor yourselves for symptoms associated with COVID-19. As always, you should contact your healthcare provider with any questions about symptoms or specific questions about your health.

Thank you for your commitment to the work of this court and for your assistance in maintaining a safe workplace.

Yours truly,



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