

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 14, 2020

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

For a second time today, I am writing to tell you about a positive COVID-19 test. This time, the individual is an employee who was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Friday, October 9, 2020. We have again conducted contact tracing and a brief investigation. We believe the employee was on the 17th and 20<sup>th</sup> floor of the Courthouse, wearing a face covering the entire time that they were in the building. We have again notified the General Services and will ensure that the areas visited will be properly cleaned using appropriate protocols.

I remain of the view that this individual positive test, like the ones I have described in earlier letters, is not a basis for alarm. We are doing everything we can to keep staff and the public safe here, and that means vigilant enforcement of the requirements that everyone wear a face covering the Courthouse and maintain physical distance from one another. COVID-19 spreads easily between people; it can live on surfaces, but that is not the main way the infection spreads, according to the [CDC](#). All of us should continue to monitor ourselves for symptoms associated with COVID-19. Please contact your healthcare provider with any questions about symptoms or specific questions about your health.

Many of us are so “over” the pandemic. We are tired of the social restrictions and tired of wearing a mask. But the virus is not done with us. There will be challenges in the months ahead. I hope today was an aberration—but if it is not, and there are more episodes of multiple positive tests in a single day, I will limit the notice to single letter. I will also continue to remind you that we must stay on top of this by maintaining physical distance, washing our hands and wearing a mask over nose and mouth, here in the Courthouse and in all social interactions. Thank you for your efforts.

Yours truly,



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