

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:

I am writing to let you know that a litigant who was last in the Dirksen Courthouse on Thursday, October 8, 2020 later received a positive result on a COVID-19 test. Based on contact tracing and a brief investigation, we believe that the litigant was on the 4th, 5th and 21st floors of the Courthouse that day, and was wearing a face covering the entire time that they were in the Courthouse. The General Services Administration has already been notified and will ensure that the areas visited will be properly cleaned using appropriate protocols.

I know nobody is happy to receive these letters from me, and I can assure you that Tom Bruton and I are never happy about sending them. Again, I want to remind you that although COVID-19 spreads easily between people and can live on surfaces, the [CDC advises](#) that touching a surface or object that has the virus on it is not the main way the infection spreads. That means that this individual positive test is not a basis for alarm—but it is another reminder that we must stay attentive in our requirements to wear face coverings while in the Courthouse and maintain physical distancing between each other. As always, you should continue to monitor yourself for any symptoms associated with COVID-19, and you should contact your healthcare provider with any questions about symptoms or specific questions about your health.

Friends, the virus will be with us into the winter. For now, the only effective method we have for preventing the transmission of COVID-19 is to maintain at least a six-foot distance, wash our hands, and wear a mask or face covering over nose and mouth—not only at work, but also in your social interactions. I appreciate your continued diligence in following these measures and your notification of any potential exposure to Tom Bruton so that we can continue to notify staff and visitors of these incidents.

Yours truly,



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