

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 4, 2020

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

As you know, we closely monitor not only your health and safety, but also the current conditions in the communities of the Northern District of Illinois. This past week, we have experienced several incidents of positive COVID-19 test results at the Dirksen Courthouse, including three today, described below. We have already suspended all jury trials in the District in response to the increased number of COVID-19 cases. If trends continue, we may need to impose further restrictions on Courthouse activity. It is my responsibility to maintain a safe work environment for everyone--employees, litigants, judges, court security officers, and visitors. I am asking you to make it your priority and commit to follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. You must wear a face covering, watch your distance, and wash your hands. I know how much you want to attend social events and see friends and extended family members in person. I do as well. Please be aware that we have seen firsthand an increase in the spread of the virus as a result of these events, and exercise great caution.

Today, I learned of three individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 after recently being in the Dirksen Courthouse, one of whom was last in the building on November 2, 2020:

- an employee who works on the 15th floor, last in the building on Friday, October 30, 2020, who also visited the 11th floor.
- an employee who works on the 25th floor, last here on Saturday, October 31, 2020, who did not visit any other floor on that date.
- a Court Security Officer, last in the Courthouse on Monday, November 2, 2020, but not assigned to any public areas of the building.

We believe that all the individuals wore face coverings the entire time they were in the Courthouse. Individuals who had contact with these employees have already been notified. We have again alerted the General Services Administration and will ensure that the areas visited will be properly cleaned using appropriate protocols. You should continue to monitor yourselves for symptoms, and contact your own healthcare provider any questions about the virus or your own health.

I know you understand that we all have a responsibility to one another and to the public. Please 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