

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

September 1, 2020

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

Late this afternoon, I learned that a construction worker, assigned to an overnight shift on the 24<sup>th</sup> floor of the Dirksen Courthouse on Friday, August 28, 2020, later tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The General Services Administration will ensure that the area that the contractor worked be properly cleaned using the appropriate protocols. GSA has advised us that no service contractors or federal employees were in direct contact with the construction contractor and that the worker's paths of entry and exit were disinfected after work ended each morning.

As you know, COVID-19 spreads easily between people and can live on surfaces, but the [CDC advises](#) that touching a surface or object that has the virus on it is not the main way the infection spreads. I do not believe this individual positive test is a basis for alarm. You should of course 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.

The best way that we can prevent the transmission of COVID-19 is to maintain our 6 feet of distance, wash our hands and wear our face coverings. I appreciate your continued diligence in following these measures.

Yours truly,



Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer  
United States District Court Judge  
Chair, Dirksen Building Safety and Security Committee