

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

March 29, 2021

Dear Dirksen Courthouse Occupants:

The COVID metrics in Illinois and Chicago are continuing to rise, and our Courthouses are not immune. Today I have learned of an employee/contractor and a courthouse visitor who have recently tested positive for COVID-19:

- the employee/contractor was in the Dirksen Courthouse every day last week and accessed the 2nd floor, the 8th floor, and the 20th floor mailroom; and
- the courthouse visitor was in the Dirksen Courthouse on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, and accessed the 2nd and 16th floors.

Based on our brief investigation, we believe these individuals were on no other floors of the buildings, wore a face covering for the entire time they were in the buildings, and maintained appropriate distancing while in the Courthouses. Individuals who had direct contact with these individuals will be notified, and the General Services Administration have been notified to clean the impacted areas.

We remain encouraged by the vaccine news, and we know the SHIELD testing program, while it doesn't eliminate risk, certainly mitigates it. But please remember that we all need to continue our efforts. Mask up--over your nose and mouth. Stay six feet away from others. Wash your hands often. Please be vigilant about taking the SHIELD test; it is for your benefit but also to protect everyone who uses this building. Get a vaccine as soon as you can, but adhere to the safety protocols even after you have been vaccinated.

Thank you all for the good work you are doing. Please do stay the course. I want everyone safe and healthy.

Yours truly,



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