

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

COVID-19 Vaccination to be Required for Employees of U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Northern District of Illinois

Consistent with President Biden's recent directive, Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer has announced that all employees and contractors of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois will be required to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Employees who are not fully vaccinated will be required to wear masks at all times in the workplace, required to be tested twice a week, and prohibited from work-related travel.

"COVID-19 vaccinations are the very best available line of defense against this virus. Many of us work directly with the public, and all of us have a responsibility not only to one another, but also to the members of our community who come before us," said Judge Pallmeyer.

"When members of the public enter the courthouse, they are entitled to be assured that the Court has made every effort to keep them safe from COVID-19," Judge Pallmeyer added.

All employees and contractors of the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. Pretrial Services, and U.S. Probation Office for the Northern District of Illinois will attest to their vaccination status by August 16, 2021.

Since March 2020, the Court has adopted layered mitigation strategies including universal masking in the district's courthouses, sanitation stations, social distance

markers, reconfigured exits, juror safety protocols, remote proceedings, and regular non-invasive COVID-19 testing of jurors, case participants, and courthouse employees through the University of Illinois SHIELD test. Additionally, last month the Court, in partnership with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), hosted a free, walk-up COVID-19 vaccine clinic in the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse that was open to the public.

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