



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
14th Judicial District

COURT ADMINISTRATION

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MICHAEL O'FOGHLUDHA
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

CLAYTON J JONES, JR.
Chief District Court Judge

February 27, 2023

From: E. Deneen Barrier, Trial Court Administrator – Court Manager I
Hon. Michael O’Foghludha, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Hon. Clayton J. Jones, Jr., Chief District Court Judge
Hon. Aminah M. Thompson, Clerk of Superior Court
Hon. Satana DeBerry, District Attorney
Hon. Clarence F. Birkhead, Sheriff
Hon. Dawn Baxton, Public Defender
S. Elaine Evans, Chief Magistrate

To All Employees:

Today, it was reported that an individual tested positive for COVID-19. This individual was last in the building on Friday, February 24, 2023. The person had been on the first and second floors.

Contact tracing is taking place and individuals who may be at risk will be contacted by local health officials. Work areas and places accessed by the individual will be sanitized in accordance with health department protocol and guidance. All persons who were in the building during this timeframe are strongly encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and should not enter court facilities if symptomatic. Please note that this notification contains general information so as to respect medical privacy and confidentiality.

Judicial Branch employees are critical infrastructure workers. If you do not have symptoms, the CDC and DHHS recommend that you continue to take precautions and self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. See the attached informational guides on how to do so and what to do if you become sick.

If you become sick or think you may have COVID-19, call your doctor, public health department, or community health center to talk to a medical professional by phone. They can provide you with additional medical information and assist you in making plans for what to do next. If you are unable to work because you become sick or think you may have COVID-19, contact your supervisor for additional information.

If you have been identified as a person who may have been in close contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19, you will receive additional guidance from the county's public health department. All lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test results are reported by the test administrator to the county health department. Upon receipt, "contact tracing" begins by the local health officials. Contact tracing involves the following:

- The health department's contact tracers contact the positive case and ask the individual for a list of "close contacts" and ask for information regarding where he or she is employed
- "Close contacts" are all persons who have been within 6 feet of the positive case for 15 minutes or more
- Contact tracers then attempt to contact each of the positive case's close contacts, within 48 hours, to notify them that they have been exposed (contact tracers do not identify the positive case) and should quarantine. They also contact the individual's hiring authority to inform the employer that their employee has tested positive, but they do not provide a name or other identifying information.

Your health and safety are our priority as we support each other in our continuing efforts to provide critical court services. We thank you for your cooperation and appreciate your understanding as we all try to navigate through this situation.