Please note: our regular content has been suspended until further notice to focus efforts on mitigating the daily operational challenges associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

As we enter the final months of 2020, it’s clear we’re not out of the woods yet with this pandemic given recent reports of rising COVID-19 cases in several U.S. states, including Florida. The uptick in coronavirus infection rates is especially concerning as we head into a busy stretch with the year-end holiday season that kicks off traditionally with Thanksgiving Day. Hopefully, the trend will reverse and head in a better direction.

While cooler fall weather remains at bay, the rainy season has lingered longer than normal, which serves to remind us that November marks the final month of the hurricane season. Let’s hope the last 30 days will be a less active period for hurricanes than the prior months. With flu season also on the horizon, we all need to take extra caution to safeguard our health as we continue to battle COVID-19.

The aviation industry took a hit in October as thousands of airline employees were furloughed or laid off after efforts to secure additional federal funding failed. Without another round of government funding, more economic distress could be in store for our industry. At FLL, we continue to look for ways to mitigate the loss of airline and non-airline revenue by
trimming costs where possible to remain financially viable during this period of uncertainty. While we're optimistic the holiday season may trigger modest increases in passenger activity, long term, any meaningful travel recovery is still a ways off.

In October, our international terminals started to see more traffic as airlines resumed service to several international routes in South America, including Colombia and Peru. We expect this trend to continue in November as more international carriers return to FLL, such as WestJet, Avianca, and Copa. A handful of new routes are set to launch in November and December, which may also spur travel demand. Another likely contributor to the increase in recent passenger activity at FLL is the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, scheduled for October 28 - November 1. As a major economic driver for Fort Lauderdale, the world's largest in-water boating extravaganza generated an economic impact of $1.3 billion in Florida in 2019, according to its owner, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida. In September, FLL welcomed 877,855 visitors, a 0.3 percent dip from 860,018 travelers in August and a 6.4 percent decline from 938,979 in July.

As the holiday season nears, FLL will continue its efforts to provide a safe, clean, and healthy environment for all airport guests and employees. As our terminals get busier, we must continue to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention protocols for curbing the spread of COVID-19. These include wearing face coverings in public, practicing social distancing, and good handwashing hygiene. Learn more in our "FLLy Safer, FLLy Smarter, FLLy Better" public confidence campaign.

Here is a snapshot of other FLL updates:

**North Runway Project Award**
For the second time this year, the North Runway Rehabilitation Project at FLL has won industry recognition as an outstanding aviation undertaking. On October 20, the Florida Department of Transportation announced FLL's $95 million runway reconstruction project as its 2020 Commercial Service Airport Project of the Year. In May, the project received the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport 2020 Corporate Award for Commercial Airport Project of the Year -- Airfields.
We've Moved
The Broward County Aviation Department has moved into new consolidated offices in Terminal 4. Our new address is 320 Terminal Drive, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315, however, phone numbers remain the same. The relocated employee divisions are Administration/Executive, Airport Development, Business & Properties Management, County Attorney’s Office, Information Systems, and Finance. Historically, this office relocation had been in the development pipeline for many years following two temporary BCAD moves in 2012 and 2006. We look forward to serving you in our new workspace.

Airline News
JetBlue Airways plans to start new twice-weekly flights between FLL and Bozeman, MT, and Palm Springs, CA, on December 18. Additionally, United Airlines’ new seasonal nonstop flights to Boston, MA, Cleveland, OH, and New York’s LaGuardia Airport will run November 6 to January 10, 2021. Meanwhile, internationally, Spirit Airlines plans to launch new service to Bucaramanga and Barranquilla in Colombia on November 17 and 18, respectively. The airline will resume flights to Cap Haitien, Haiti, on December 3. Meanwhile, Silver Airways is gearing up to begin flying between FLL and Charleston, SC, on November 23.

Dining & Shopping Options
As passenger traffic slowly ticked up in recent months, several more shops and restaurants have reopened at FLL to cater to travelers. Currently, 36 of FLL’s 86 concessions are open, up from about 12 in April. Adding to the retail offerings in Terminal 4 is The Body Shop, which made its debut at FLL on September 28.

Emergency Training
FLL will host its triennial airport training drill on Friday, November 13, from 10AM-2PM. Dubbed "Operation Silver Lining," the drill’s goal is to evaluate the airport’s emergency preparedness and response. The Federal Aviation Administration mandates the exercise as part of the airport’s operating certification. During this exercise, FLL will be taking extra precautions to ensure that all COVID-19 policies and guidelines are followed to provide a safe environment for all participants.
Please be safe, and continue to be kind to each other, and know at FLL our incredible airport team stands ready to welcome you back for your next trip.

Mark

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