A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

By now, we were all hoping that COVID-19 infections would have started to subside but unfortunately, this has not been the case. Rising infection rates in Florida and elsewhere across the nation are now placing reopening efforts in jeopardy.

In past months, we saw improving travel activity at FLL, albeit still a significant reduction in passenger flow compared to a year ago. As summer ramped up, many airline partners added or resumed domestic and international destinations that were temporarily suspended due to the pandemic, which was another positive sign. Recent traffic trends, however, show passenger activity slowing again, and some international destinations such as the Bahamas have been halted due to travel restrictions on Americans as COVID-19 cases spike in the U.S. At FLL today, there are about 150 daily departures as opposed to last year when we had roughly 350.

As we continue our efforts to restart travel, it is even more critical now than ever that everyone visiting the airport wear a face covering (unless exempted for valid qualifying reasons), while inside the terminals and Rental Car Center (RCC). There are signs posted
throughout the airport to remind travelers of this Broward County mandate. We must all do our part by wearing a face covering, practicing social distancing, and following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention handwashing guidelines to help combat the spread of the virus. Free face coverings are available at FLL’s information booths in our baggage claim areas for any guest or employee who needs one while at the airport. Our FLLy Safer, FLLy Smarter, FLLy Better campaign outlines key steps we’ve taken to prepare the airport with everyone’s health and safety in mind.

Even as we contend with the impacts of COVID-19, the Broward County Aviation Department continues to strive to make FLL the best it can be. The airport now boasts two newly-rehabilitated runways following the completion of essential repairs and maintenance on the South Runway in early July. The North Runway underwent a massive $95 million reconstruction in 2019. Both projects were completed on-time and within budget.

**Airport Beautification**

During our recent downtime, efforts have been ongoing to beautify and enhance the airport campus with new amenities, wayfinding signage, and public art, among other improvements for passengers’ return. We have installed a spectacular illuminated wall in Terminal 4 dubbed “Mosaic,” which offers a colorful welcome for arriving international passengers. Thousands of LED lights illuminate the wall as passengers walk by. Travelers in the concourse below can also enjoy the light show. The unique artwork is yet another feature that helps to elevate the FLL guest experience.

**Dining & Shopping Options**

As passenger traffic slowly gains momentum, more concessions are reopening to meet the incremental demand. Currently, nearly a third of FLL’s 90 concessions are open serving travelers, up from about a dozen in April. A few new shopping and dining options are making their FLL debut this summer, including electronics retailer InMotion, and casual dining eatery Oceana sic Marketplace, which both opened in Terminal 3.

**Ground Transportation Improvements**

FLL has invested in 48 shiny, new passenger buses to transport guests between the airport’s four terminals as well as the RCC. Several of the blue coaches are now in operation. While each can carry up to 25 seated passengers, we are limiting the number of guests to 12
per bus to minimize personal contact. The ADA-accessible fleet features comfortable fabric seats, large luggage racks, wheelchair ramps, and an automated announcement system and security cameras. The fuel-efficient and eco-friendly buses use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel that generates lower exhaust emissions.

As we continue in the battle against COVID-19, I remain confident that our airport community will eventually recover from the unprecedented impacts of this pandemic. In the meantime, let’s stay apart to protect our health but stand together to defeat this invisible threat.

Be strong, be well and stay safe!

Mark

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