

Please note: our regular newsletter content remains suspended until further notice during the evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



Mark E. Gale
CEO/Director of Aviation
Fort Lauderdale-
Hollywood International
Airport (FLL)

A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

Travelers are back at FLL in full force this summer, and the airport's terminals and roadways are bustling with activity. In recent months, as destinations roll out the welcome mat to the vaccinated or relax COVID-19 travel restrictions, pent-up wanderlust is propelling more people to jet off for business, visits with family and friends, or to enjoy bucket list trips put off during the peak of the pandemic.

In June, FLL served 2.75 million visitors versus 2.68 million in May, reflecting a 2.7 percent month-over-month increase. That compares to 2.34 million visitors in April and 2.31 million in March. In all, FLL welcomed only 8.4 percent fewer travelers in June versus the same month in 2019, another clear sign of a travel reboot.

The resurgence in travel is an opportunity for aviation workers to regain employment and rebuild their livelihoods. However, recent surges in COVID-19 cases nationwide fueled by the highly transmissible Delta variant are concerning and could trigger an industry setback. In turn, the uptick in new COVID-19 infections has prompted local, state, and federal public health officials to renew calls for all eligible persons to get

vaccinated to help deter the spread of this more contagious variant. One critical reminder for everyone traveling this summer is the ongoing [federal mandate](#) requiring face masks to be worn inside airports and onboard flights for everyone's safety regardless of vaccination.

While FLL looks and feels closer to normal again, some airport services are still not available due to ongoing staffing and supply challenges arising from the pandemic. Impacted guest services include valet parking, terminal-to-terminal shuttles, and public baggage storage, among others. Additionally, a few concessions remain temporarily closed while others have reduced operating hours.

Given current challenges and the faster-than-expected travel uptick occurring at FLL and other airports nationwide, travelers could experience longer waits for parking, rental car pick-up/returns, check-in, and security screening. As such, we ask for your patience and understanding as the Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) and FLL's service partners work to restore all facets of the pre-COVID-19 airport experience as quickly as possible.

BCAD remains steadfast in providing a safe and sanitized airport environment for travelers and employees. Thank you for placing used facemasks, gloves, hand sanitizer wipes, and other litter in the waste bins provided across the airport. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep FLL clean.

Until next time, check out these highlights of recent FLL events:

Airport Ambassadors

On July 26, FLL welcomed back its [Airport Ambassadors](#) and [AmbassaDogs](#) team members for the first time after an extended hiatus due to the impacts of COVID-19. The airport's friendly, outgoing and caring volunteers serve as goodwill diplomats making a positive impression on the millions of passengers traveling through FLL. The valued ambassadors outfitted in red uniforms will continue to staff information booths and roam the terminals and Rental Car Center, providing assistance where needed. Likewise, our AmbassaDog pup teams will visit passengers in the concourses offering some comfort and relief before their flights depart. Unfortunately, in March 2020, the airport suspended both programs due to the onset of the pandemic. Nevertheless, from April 2019 to April 2020, FLL's volunteers contributed 6,819

hours in service to airport guests.

Airline Clubs

United Airlines reopened its United Club at FLL on July 18, encouraged by growing passenger demand for its flights to and from Fort Lauderdale amid the travel recovery in 2021. FLL guests can enjoy the United Club in Terminal 1, Concourse C near Gate C1, by purchasing an annual membership or a one-time pass. In 2020, United temporarily closed its FLL Club and many others nationwide during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. United Clubs offer a range of complimentary amenities, including beverages, light snacks, and high-speed Wi-Fi access, in addition to assistance with reservations, seat assignments, and electronic ticketing.

Meanwhile, the new Delta Sky Club* (pictured above) at FLL made its debut on June 23 in Concourse D, one of the latest enhancements for airport guests in Terminal 2, as it nears the end of a multi-year \$153 million modernization project. The 8,000-plus square-foot mezzanine-level Delta Air Lines lounge features include floor-to-ceiling windows with spectacular views of the runway and the downtown Fort Lauderdale skyline. There is also an art gallery, self-serve food stations, and a bar selection of seasonal, premium cocktails for guests to enjoy. The Sky Club's culinary options include breakfast favorites, regional specialties, soups, salads, sandwiches, quick snacks, and desserts.

Canine Training Day



It was a teachable and doggone adorable moment on June 30 when a group of 10 Canine Companions working dogs and service pups in training visited FLL with their owners and handlers to get familiar with airport sights and sounds. The familiarization tour in Terminal 1 included security screening, elevator rides and visits to pet relief and service animal areas. "We all really felt it was a very beneficial outing for our working

dogs and future service dogs,” said Canine Companions organizer Sheryl Scheer. “Everyone was so welcoming and helpful. We hope to be able to do this again.”

COVID-19 Testing

Our on-site Nomi Health-operated COVID-19 testing site in Terminal 3 continues to serve FLL travelers in the pandemic as new infection rates rise again. The site has administered more than 48,000 tests since its opening in December. For [online](#) reservations and more testing information, visit [fll.net](#).

Cruising Comeback

More cruise ships are dropping anchor at nearby Port Everglades as cruising makes a steady comeback. The latest to depart on cruises from the Fort Lauderdale seaport included Celebrity Equinox and Celebrity Edge on August 1 and Odyssey of the Seas on July 31. Currently, three ships are sailing from Port Everglades during the off-season summer months. Read more [here](#).

Dine & Shop Update

Currently, 62 of FLL's 84 concessions are now open and serving guests. Among the latest to reopen this summer included Intracoastal News (Terminal 1), Pei Wei Asian Diner (Terminal 3), and Cross Grain Brewhouse (Terminal 4). Explore our Dine & Shop [directory](#) for more options.

Destination News

Several new or returning domestic and international [routes](#) are taking off this fall and winter. Among them will be flights from Flair Airlines, a new carrier for FLL, which plans to launch service to four Canadian cities on October 31: Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and Kitchener-Waterloo.

Other daily or weekly flights include:

- Allegiant: Des Moines, IA (Oct. 6); Fayetteville, AR (Oct. 8)
- Air Canada: Quebec City, Canada (Nov. 19)
- Spirit Airlines: Manchester, NH (Oct. 8); Milwaukee, WI (Nov.17); Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Nov. 17)

FAA Metroplex Update

The Federation Aviation Administration (FAA) is moving ahead with plans to publish and implement its [South-Central Florida Metroplex](#) procedures for the Fort Lauderdale area on August 12. The Metroplex is the FAA's plan to modernize air traffic procedures to

enhance safety and efficiency for several airports in the southern half of Florida, including FLL. The airspace enhancement project includes new arrival and departure procedures for Miami, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa, and St. Pete/Clearwater international airports and 15 smaller facilities. BACD will continue discussions with the FAA regarding the Metroplex and monitor all air traffic arriving to and departing from FLL. In April, the FAA began implementation of the Metroplex procedures pursuant to the Final Environmental Assessment (EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact and Record of Decision for the South-Central Florida Metroplex issued on October 15, 2020.

Tourism Rebranding

Did you know the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, Broward County's official destination marketing agency, recently launched a new brand name and tagline? Learn more about the new "Visit Lauderdale, Everyone Under the Sun" destination brand, slogan, and hyper local-inspired craft beer [here](#).

Vaccine Flight

Brazilian carrier [Azul flew a shipment of 3 million doses](#) of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine from FLL on June 24 to Campinas, Brazil. The vaccine shipment earmarked for the Brazilian government was part of President Biden's pledge to [donate 80 million vaccines](#) to countries across the globe struggling with high rates of COVID-19 and limited vaccine supplies. Brazil has approximately 20 million coronavirus cases and more than 500,000 related deaths resulting in the second-highest COVID-19 fatality count worldwide behind the United States, according to a [Reuters](#) report.

Stay healthy, cool, and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Mark

Stay Connected

Subscribe Now