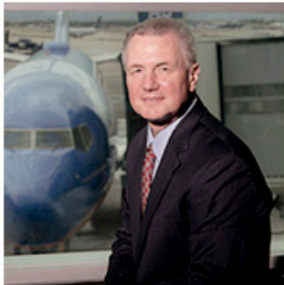


Please note: our regular newsletter content remains suspended until further notice during the evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



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

## A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

Summer is almost officially here, and travel activity is heating up. Today, FLL is looking and feeling closer to normal again compared to last year during the pandemic's peak. As COVID-19 vaccinations rise in the U.S. and elsewhere, more people are returning to the skies for long-awaited visits with family or friends and overdue getaways.

In May, FLL welcomed 2.68 million passengers, an increase of 1,043 percent over the same month in 2020. Only 14% fewer travelers arrived at FLL in May versus the same month in 2019, a clear indicator that travel is recovering. From January through May, 10.56 million people traveled through FLL, a 20% jump from the same period in 2020. Meanwhile, in April, 2.34 million visitors moved through the airport, up 1.2% from 2.31 million in March and 50% more than 1.56 million in February. Currently, passenger traffic at FLL is about 85% of pre-pandemic volume and is poised to reach 2019 levels by the end of 2021.

Still, even as we reclaim our lives and adapt to the pandemic's changing landscape, some aspects of the travel experience will remain different until COVID-19 is

entirely behind us. Among them is the ongoing [federal mandate](#) requiring face masks to be worn inside airports and onboard flights for everyone's safety regardless of vaccination. Additionally, COVID-19 preventive measures such as acrylic protective barriers at check-in counters, enhanced sanitation protocols, and increasing deployment of touchless technology are the status quo for now.

During May, FLL commemorated Memorial Day to salute those who lost their lives in service to our nation on battlefields around the globe. In addition, we celebrated our family matriarchs on Mother's Day for their unconditional love and indelible sacrifices. Early in the month, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels\* (pictured above) flew practice runs to and from FLL ahead of their spectacular headlining Fort Lauderdale Air Show performances.

In June, we'll mark Flag Day, showcase Juneteenth or Emancipation Day, and honor the dads in our lives on Father's Day, among other special events. But, while we're excited about the sunnier travel outlook ahead, we were reminded by the forming of subtropical storm Ana (the first named storm of the 2021 hurricane season) in late May that we cannot let our guard down. As such, the Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) continually updates its emergency response plan to be ready before, during, and beyond the June through November season to protect travelers, employees, and our airports if a storm threatens.

If you're traveling soon, remember many destinations still require proof of a negative COVID-19 test to enter or avoid quarantine. At FLL, the Nomi Health-operated testing site in Terminal 3 offers ticketed travelers this convenient service upon arrival or departure from Fort Lauderdale. Nomi has conducted more than 33,000 tests since opening at FLL last December. [Online](#) reservations are recommended, and more testing information can be found at [fll.net](#).

As FLL preps for busier times, BCAD is committed to providing a safe and sanitized airport environment. To assist our efforts, kindly discard face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer wipes, and other litter in the waste receptacles provided airport-wide. Another pandemic-borne challenge we're seeing is that service-oriented businesses such as restaurants and stores are having difficulty rehiring staff to meet renewed consumer



demand. Presently, while the majority of FLL concessions are open and serving travelers, a few remain closed due in part to this staffing shortage. We ask for your understanding and patience as our concessionaires work toward a resolution.

In closing, here's a snapshot of recent events:

**Achievements: North Perry Aces Exam Again**

Congrats to [North Perry Airport](#) (HWO), our general aviation reliever facility in Pembroke Pines on another successful Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) annual inspection. The yearly FDOT inspection is required to maintain an airport license. HWO has achieved 21 consecutive years of zero discrepancies for the annual FDOT airport inspection, which typically includes a review of all airfield markings and signs, runway/taxiway lights, safety areas, aircraft approach slopes, wildlife control, and Foreign Object Debris. "This is an ongoing testament to the dedication of the HWO team and all who support North Perry, to provide the highest level of safety at our busy general aviation reliever airport," said Michael Nonnemacher, BCAD's Chief Operating Officer, in announcing the new milestone.

**Awards: Three NACos for BCAD**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) on May 21 announced BCAD had won three 2021 Achievement Awards for the following entries and categories:

- **"[In Flight](#)"** Public Art Mural on the North Runway's Jet Blast Deflector (Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation)
- **"[FLLy Safer, FLLy Smarter, FLLy Better](#)"** Public Confidence Campaign (Community & Economic Development)
- **"[Pack the Fun, Not the Gun](#)"** Safety First Campaign (Criminal Justice & Public Safety)

**Cruising Restart Nears**

Optimism floats as the resumption of cruising from the U.S. nears following recent news from Celebrity Cruises, part of the Royal Caribbean Group, that seven-night sailings from nearby Port Everglades (PEV) are currently scheduled to commence on June 26. The return of cruises aboard Celebrity Edge was approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in late May. The CDC also greenlighted Royal Caribbean Group to begin test

cruises from Miami in late June. Celebrity's sister line, Royal Caribbean International, is also planning to start [six and eight-night Caribbean cruises](#) from Port Everglades on July 31 aboard its new Odyssey of the Seas vessel. Additionally, [Royal Caribbean](#) will join cruise lines [Norwegian](#), [Holland America](#), and [Princess](#) in resuming voyages from Seattle to Alaska in July and August. In May, more than 3,000 cruise and cargo ship crew members and employees at PEV [received COVID-19 vaccinations](#) through partnerships with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Seafarers' House, Celebrity, Holland America, Princess, and Royal Caribbean, port officials said. The vaccination program, which is open to all seaport workers and those who conduct business there, is slated to continue in June.

### **Dine & Shop News**

Retailer **3Sixty Duty Free & More** celebrated the grand reopening of its newly-expanded 3,300-square foot store in Terminal 4 on April 23 along with BCAD officials. FLL shoppers can safely enjoy access to a wide selection of merchandise and luxury brands in the engaging and innovative retail space. 3Sixty also has stores opened in Terminals 1 and 3. Visit our [Dine & Shop directory](#) for more options at FLL.

### **Families Reunite**

"Reunited and it feels so good," that's likely the tune 50 fully vaccinated flyers were singing during the [CLEAR Connects: A Day of Families](#) reunion with loved ones in New Jersey at MetLife Stadium on May 6. Biometrics identification company CLEAR partnered with United to arrange the [charter from FLL to Newark](#) to take the group of seniors home after a year-long separation from family due to the pandemic. BCAD supported the event with a water salute as United's flight departed for New Jersey.

### **Routes Taking Off**

New and returning [routes](#) taking flight this summer include:

- Spirit Airlines' flights to Louisville, KY and St. Louis, MO on May 27
- Allegiant's resumption of seasonal service to Bangor, ME on May 28

### **Vaccination Update**

Forty-four (44) % of Americans were fully vaccinated as

of June 14, and 53% had received at least one dose per data from the CDC. Other upsides in the fight against COVID-19 include lower rates of new infections, and hospital stays in many U.S. states. In Broward County, more than 1 million of its 1.9 million population had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as of June 3, which is a welcomed vaccination milestone for our region. County officials continue to partner with state and local public health officials to encourage residents to get vaccinated to enable our lives to return to normal.

As communities across America move closer to fully reopening and travel restrictions wane, when you're ready to soar again, we look forward to welcoming you at FLL.

Have a safe, happy, and healthy summer.

*Mark*

\* U.S. Blue Angels photo credit: Cole Johnson/BCAD Staff

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