



## Travel Industry Update

November 23, 2020

### Chicago Airports Adding COVID-19 Testing Facilities

- Chicago's two major airports will be joining New York's three major facilities by adding on-site COVID-19 testing facilities at O'Hare International and Midway by next month.
- The city is already taking requests for proposals from medical providers who can operate drive-up and walk-in facilities at the airports, according to the Chicago Tribune.
- Officials say both the rapid test and the PCR test will be available.
- The testing is especially helpful for travelers heading to destinations that require negative coronavirus tests before you can enter the country.

### Airlines say more travelers opting not to fly, canceling trips as COVID-19 cases surge

- United Airlines warned Thursday that bookings have slowed and cancellations have increased as the number of coronavirus infections spikes across the country.
- Southwest Airlines has also seen more cancellations, and the carrier's CEO said that travel demand will remain weak in the first quarter.
- The number of people flying in the United States is down about 65% from a year ago, and airlines were hoping that the upcoming holidays would mean an increase in leisure travel.
- United said however that it continues to see the coronavirus pandemic hurting travel.
- In the past week, "there has been a deceleration in system bookings and an uptick in cancellations as a result of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases," United said in a regulatory filing.
- Chicago-based United expects to operate no more than 45% of its normal schedule in the fourth quarter, and it continues to forecast a 67% decline in revenue compared with last year's fourth quarter.
- Southwest officials said bookings are rising for the holidays but so are cancellations — they didn't provide numbers for either.

### Thanksgiving travel: TSA screens 1 million for the first time since March despite COVID surge

- Thanksgiving travel is surging despite new coronavirus cases approaching 200,000 a day in the United States.
- On Friday, the number of travelers screened at US airport security checkpoints topped 1 million for only the second time since March, according to Transportation Security Administration figures. That's still just 40% of the volume screened on the Friday before Thanksgiving a year ago.

- Travel organization AAA has said that it expects at least a 10% drop in travel this Thanksgiving because of spiking coronavirus cases, shifting travel restrictions and calls by health and government officials for people to stay home.
- AAA forecasts nearly 48 million travelers will drive to their destinations -- representing a 4.3% drop from last year in the number of people traveling by car over the holiday period, which AAA defines as Wednesday to Sunday.
- Air travel is expected to see its largest one-year decrease on record for Thanksgiving, a nearly 48% drop, with just 2.4 million travelers expected to fly, according to the organization.

### **Delta CEO calls New York-London travel corridor 'complicated,' as airlines aim to revive transatlantic travel**

- Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said Sunday that the New York-London travel corridor will be "complicated" due to coronavirus restrictions, as airlines look to revive transatlantic travel.
- Bastian said that it would be easier to reopen a route to almost any other European city than London, citing the quarantine requirements in the U.K. as well as the lack of reliance on tourism.
- "I think you will find on the continent several countries that are more open," Bastian told the Financial Times, adding, "I think New York-London is complicated."
- Domestic flights in the U.S. have revived faster than international travel, with Thanksgiving to see a bump – though, Bastian projects that flight volume would be around 35%-40% of last year's level.

### **Disney World is bringing back Park Hopper perks next year**

- On Friday, Walt Disney World Resort announced its Orlando, Fla., theme park is bringing back the beloved Park Hopper program starting on Jan. 1, 2021.
- Tickets or annual passes with the Park Hopper perk allows guests to visit multiple Disney Parks – including Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, Magic Kingdom Park, Disney's Hollywood Studios and EPCOT– on the same day.
- However, Disney is implementing some new modifications amid the COVID-19 pandemic to continue its "ongoing focus on health and safety," the company said in a statement.
- Guests will only be allowed to hop between parks from 2 p.m. until closing, and will have to make a reservation to the first park they plan to visit in the day.
- "These modifications are designed to help us continue managing attendance in a way that fosters physical distancing," Disney said in a statement. "Additionally, other enhanced health and safety measures remain in effect, including face coverings required for all guests ages two and up."

### **CDC raises warning against cruise travel to highest level, strengthens international flight guidelines**

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a Level 4 travel notice on Saturday advising that "all people" should avoid travel on cruise ships worldwide because "the risk of COVID-19 on cruise ships is very high."

- "Cruise passengers are at increased risk of person-to-person spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, and outbreaks of COVID-19 have been reported on cruise ships," the organization said on its website.
- The CDC added that for passengers who may be considered at increased risk, the warning is "especially" applicable.
- "Passengers who decide to go on a cruise should get tested 3-5 days after your trip AND stay home for 7 days after travel," the CDC said. "Even if you test negative, stay home for the full 7 days."
- For passengers who don't get tested, the CDC recommended staying home for 14 days.
- A similar update was issued Saturday for international air travel, recommending that Americans who are choosing to fly out of the country get tested before and after traveling: "1-3 days before your flight" and again "3-5 days after travel." Even those who test negative upon return should stay home for seven days; 14 for those who do not get tested.